



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW 4431-15 M.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA351451 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of two months of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, and Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits because he failed to provide necessary documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 3, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On June 11, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision and, following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

The record reveals that on March 5, 2015, Petitioner applied for a recertification of his SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits commencing January 1, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2. However, because Petitioner's application was submitted after his 12-month registration period had expired, the Agency considered it an initial application. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.3(b). On March 19, 2015, the Agency notified Petitioner that he was eligible for WFNJ/GA benefits as of March 4, 2015 and SNAP benefits as of March 5, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1.

The ALJ noted that Petitioner submitted a Med-1 form with his application exempting him from employment or training activities for the period March 16, 2015, through June 16, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner failed to supply proper and necessary documents for the redetermination of his SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits for January and February, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2. Therefore, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Agency properly denied Petitioner benefits for January and February, 2015 because Petitioner failed to establish eligibility for those months. Ibid.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is hereby AFFIRMED.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JUN 26 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director