



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
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TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

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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 14259-15 P.O.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA489048 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's failure to process his application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 16, 2015, the Honorable Laura Sanders, Acting Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge ("CALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open until the close of business on October 16, 2015, to allow the Agency time to locate additional records regarding how many months of WFNJ/GA benefits Petitioner had received. No records were forthcoming and the record closed.

On October 16, 2015, the CALJ issued an Initial Decision, ordering the Agency to provide Petitioner with pro-rated WFNJ/GA benefits for March and full WFNJ/GA benefits for April through October 2015. See Initial Decision at 4. The CALJ found that Petitioner had completed the WFNJ required 28-day work requirement on March 6, 2015, yet the Agency neither provided, nor denied, WFNJ/GA benefits, nor made a demand for additional information needed to determine his eligibility. *Id.* at 2. As Petitioner was requesting WFNJ/GA benefits back to March 2015, the Agency requested, and the CALJ allowed, time after the hearing for the Agency to find records verifying that it had provided Petitioner with WFNJ/GA benefits. *Ibid.* However, none were forthcoming. *Ibid.* Moreover, the CALJ found that the payment history the Agency did provide showed that none of the benefits allegedly issued to Petitioner were cashed; thereby further supporting Petitioner's statement that he never received any benefits. *Ibid.* Hence, the CALJ's order of WFNJ/GA payments to Petitioner. *Id.* at 4.

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 CALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the CALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

By way of comment, Petitioner may receive WFNJ/GA benefits past October 2015, so long as he continues to need WFNJ/GA benefits, and otherwise remains eligible for WFNJ/GA benefits in accordance with the WFNJ regulations.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED.

*Signed Copy on File*

at DFD, BARA

**NOV 12 2015**

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Natasha Johnson

Director