



*State of New Jersey*

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Family Development  
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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 13539-14 R.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA293583 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of his initial application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") cash benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 8, 2014, the Honorable Joan Bedrin Murray, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 12, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which reversed the Agency determination and directed the Agency to grant WFNJ/GA retroactive to November 27, 2013, the date of Petitioner's initial application.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Deputy Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I hereby MODIFY the Initial Decision in this matter and REVERSE the Agency determination.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2(f)(8), eligibility for WFNJ/GA commences only after completion of the 28-day work activity. It is undisputed in this matter that Petitioner completed his 28-day work activity on January 3, 2014. See Initial Decision at 4. As such, Petitioner is to be provided benefits retroactive to January 3, 2014, not November 27, 2013, as opined by the ALJ. It is on this basis that the Initial Decision is modified. I further note that Petitioner began to receive WFNJ/GA benefits in March 2014, although unclear on precisely what date. See Initial Decision at 1-2.

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Accordingly, the Agency is to clarify that date prior to determining the precise amount of retroactive benefits.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is MODIFIED and the Agency determination is REVERSED.

**FEB 25 2015**

Signed Copy on File  
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson  
Deputy Director