



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
P.O. Box 716  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie  
Governor

Kim Guadagno  
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly  
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson  
Director  
Tel (609) 588-2400

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 4382-15 S.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA346367 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") application due to a failure to comply with the required work activity. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 1, 2015, the Honorable Gail M. Cookson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On May 1, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ noted that Petitioner completed her 28-day work requirement on March 3, 2015 and provided proof of completion to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2. Evidently, the work activity had been extended a few days over one month because of snow days and a holiday in February. Ibid. On February 25, 2015, the Agency issued an adverse action notice to Petitioner denying her GA application for failure to complete her work requirement. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1. At the hearing, the Agency representative testified that Petitioner was referred to the Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families ("SAIF") program, and the representative acknowledged that the client appeared at SAIF and has complied with her SAIF requirement. Ibid.

Based upon the foregoing, the ALJ reversed the Agency's denial of Petitioner's GA application and ordered that the Agency issue GA benefits to Petitioner retroactive to the date of completion of her 28-day work requirement. See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ further ordered that Petitioner does not have to re-apply or re-enroll in a 28-day work program. Ibid.

No Exceptions to this 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 final conclusion in this matter and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency action is hereby REVERSED.

**MAY 26 2015**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

---

Natasha Johnson  
Director