



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 15895-15 T.T.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA599312 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits contending that her needs are being met, as per documentation submitted. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 24, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 8, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision reversing the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I REJECT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

The WFNJ General Public Assistance Act, in pertinent part, declares the State's public policy to be that "every needy person shall, while in this State, be entitled to receive such assistance as may be appropriate with reference to need of a category of persons and whether or not such person are employable . . . ." See N.J.S.A. 44:8-109.

The WFNJ regulations go on to define a "needy person" as "a person who requires and qualifies for a money payment in the WFNJ program." See N.J.A.C. 10:90-15.1.

Here, the record shows that Petitioner is employable, and receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Additionally, the record indicates that Petitioner lives with a male friend, and does not pay him rent. Ibid. Moreover, in her sworn Affidavit, Petitioner merely states that she has to buy and prepare her own food. See Exhibit R-2. Of note, Petitioner is receiving SNAP benefits for payment of her food needs. See Initial Decision at 2. There is nothing in the record to indicate that all her other needs are not being met by her male friend. Based on the foregoing, I find that Petitioner has not established any identifiable need that is not being met, and therefore, she is ineligible for WFNJ/GA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-15.1; see also N.J.S.A. 44:8-109.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is REJECTED and the Agency's action is AFFIRMED.

*Signed Copy on File*

at DFD, BARA

DEC 29 2015

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Natasha Johnson

Director