

(A) Benefits cannot be granted or reinstated until the person completes another drug treatment program, and remains drug free for a minimum of 60 days and is determined via testing to be free of any non-prescribed controlled substance.

9. A person found, on or after August 22, 1996, to have willfully and knowingly fraudulently misrepresented his or her residence in order to simultaneously obtain means-tested, public assistance benefits in two or more states or jurisdictions, shall be ineligible for benefits for a period of 10 years from the date of conviction in a Federal or State court.

10. A person who, after July 1, 1997 and provided that the person has received written notice informing them of the WFNJ disqualification penalties, intentionally makes a false or misleading statement or misrepresents, conceals or withholds facts for the purpose of receiving benefits shall be ineligible for benefits for a period of six months for the first violation, 12 months for the second violation, and permanently for the third violation

11. In addition to (b)1 through 10 above, persons found eligible for or who are recipients of WFNJ/TANF, or who have been found ineligible for such programs due to voluntary refusal to comply with program requirements shall not be eligible for WFNJ/GA assistance.

(b) WFNJ benefits shall not be payable for any month in which any individual applicant/recipient in the assistance unit is participating in a strike. The individual who is on strike is ineligible for benefits; however, other members of the assistance unit remain eligible for benefits.

1. The term "strike" includes any strike or other concerted stoppage of work by employees (including a stoppage by reason of expiration of a collective bargaining agreement) and any concerted interruption of operations by employees.

2. The term "participating in a strike" means an actual refusal, in concert with others, to provide services to one's employers.

3. Examples of non-strikers who are eligible to participate in the program include, but are not limited to:

i. Employees whose workplace is closed by an employer in order to resist the demands of employees (for example, lockout);

ii. Employees unable to work as a result of striking employees (for example, truck drivers who are not working because striking pressmen prevent newspapers from being printed); or

iii. Employees who are not part of the bargaining unit on strike who do not want to cross the picket line due to fear of personal injury.

Added (a)7 and 7i, recodified former 7 through 10 as 8 through 11; and added language to (a)8 regarding occurrence date of state law offense.

10:90-2.9 Definition of employable/unemployable persons in WFNJ/GA

(a) The definition of employable/unemployable persons for determination of payment level is as follows:

1. An employable person is any person applying for or receiving assistance who is able-bodied and does not meet any one of the criteria of deferred delineated in (a)2 below. Individuals who receive medicals only and are classified as employable shall comply with WFNJ work requirements.

2. An unemployable person is any person who meets any of the criteria listed below:

i. Persons who are over 60 years of age;

ii. Persons receiving inpatient hospital care and treatment who were receiving an unemployable grant prior to entering the hospital. (Persons who were listed as employable shall retain such employable status until hospital discharge.);

iii. Persons who are residents in long term care facilities;

iv. Persons in the first 12 months of residential treatment in centers licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for the treatment of drug abuse, when medical evidence exists that the residential treatment is necessary (see N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.8(a)7ii regarding drug abuse treatment for those convicted of possession or use of controlled substances). The 12 month period starts anew for each commencement of treatment, previous incomplete or unsuccessful courses of treatment notwithstanding;

v. Persons normally eligible to receive RSDI (Title II benefits), SSI or Railroad Retirement benefits on the basis of disability, but due to administrative delays in that respective program, payments are being withheld;

vi. Persons who have been determined to be legally blind by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired;

vii. Persons in the third trimester of pregnancy when an examining physician certifies to both the pregnancy and its term;

viii. Pregnant persons when an examining physician certifies that employment poses a threat to the mother or the fetus;

ix. A caretaker relative of a disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled dependent (see N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)2ii). No more than one person in an eligible unit may be considered unemployable for this reason without written authorization from the DFD; and/or

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See: 29 N.J.R. 3971(b), 30 N.J.R. 389(a).

x. Persons determined to be incapacitated by the agency which administers the WFNJ/GA program are unemployable when such determination of incapacity is supported by any of the following circumstances:

(1) Form WFNJ-5S, Confidential Medical-Psychiatric Examining Physician's Report, or WFNJ-5 (DRS1), Examining Physician's Report, as appropriate, shall be fully completed by an examining physician that the individual is unable to comply with WFNJ/GA requirements. Such certification shall include, at a minimum, the date of examination, diagnosis, length of incapacity, functional limitations, prescribed treatment, an indication of whether or not reevaluation will be necessary, and the examining physician's signature.

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See: 29 N.J.R. 3971(b), 30 N.J.R. 389(a).

In (a)2ix, added reference to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)2ii.

10:90-2.10 WFNJ TANF/GA citizenship/eligibility requirements

(a) Only those persons who are United States citizens, or eligible aliens shall be eligible for WFNJ TANF/GA benefits. In addition, for WFNJ/GA eligibility purposes only, those persons permanently residing in the United States under color of law as of August 21, 1996 are considered eligible for WFNJ/GA benefits.

1. Eligible alien means an alien as defined in the provisions of section 431 of Title IV of Federal Public law 104-193 pursuant to section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 601 and 602).

(b) The following individuals are considered to be eligible aliens:

1. An alien present in the United States prior to August 22, 1996, and who is;

i. A lawful permanent resident;

ii. A refugee, pursuant to section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

iii. An asylee pursuant to section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

iv. An alien who has had deportation withheld pursuant to section 243(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq.);

v. An alien who has been granted parole for at least one year by the Immigration and Naturalization Service pursuant to section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

vi. An alien granted conditional entry pursuant to section 203(a)(7) of the immigration laws in effect before April 1, 1980;

vii. An alien who is honorably discharged or on active duty in the United States armed forces and his or her spouse and the unmarried dependent children of the alien or spouse;

viii. An alien who is a Cuban or Haitian entrant as defined in Section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; or

ix. An alien admitted to the United States as an Amerasian immigrant as described in Section 402(a)(2)(A)(i)(V) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980.

2. An alien entering the United States on or after August 22, 1996 and who is:

i. An alien described in (b)1ii, iii, iv, vii, viii or ix above; or

ii. An alien described in (b)1i, v or vi above is not eligible until five years after entry into the United States.

3. The cash assistance limitation related to residency requirements for newly arrived eligible aliens is addressed at N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(d).

4. Certain eligible aliens, regardless of their date of entry into the United States, as provided in Section 431 of Title IV of Federal P.L. 104-193 pursuant to Section 101 of the INA who resided in the United States and are victims of domestic violence, subject to certain conditions as described below:

i. The alien has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the United States by a spouse or a parent or by a member of the spouse or parent's family residing in the same household as the alien and the spouse or parent acquiesced to such battery or cruelty; or

ii. The alien's child has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the United States by the spouse or parent of the alien (without the active participation of the alien in the battery or cruelty), or by a member of the spouse or parent's family residing in the same household as the alien when the spouse or parent acquiesced to and the alien did not actively participate in such battery or cruelty; and

iii. In addition to the provisions described (b)3i or ii above, if the individual responsible for the battery or cruelty continues to reside in the same household or family assistance unit as the individual who was subjected to such battery or cruelty, then the alien shall be ineligible for benefits.

iv. Federal law stipulates that the Attorney General of the United States shall issue guidance in the Attorney General's sole and unreviewable discretion concerning:

(1) The alien has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the United States by a spouse or a parent or by a member of the spouse or parent's family residing in the same household as the alien and the spouse or parent acquiesced to such battery or cruelty; or

(2) The alien's child has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in the United States by the spouse or parent of the alien (without the active participation of the alien in the battery or cruelty), or by a member of the spouse or parent's family residing in the same household as the alien when the spouse or parent acquiesced to and the alien did not actively participate in such battery or cruelty; and

(3) In addition to the provisions described (b)3iv(1) or (2) above, if the individual responsible for the battery or cruelty continues to reside in the same household or family assistance unit as the individual who was subjected to such battery or cruelty, then the alien shall be ineligible for benefits.

(4) Federal law stipulates that the Attorney General of the United States shall issue guidance in the Attorney General's sole and unreviewable discretion concerning:

(A) The meaning of the terms "battery" and "extreme cruelty"; and

(B) The standards and methods to be used for determining whether a substantial connection exists between battery or cruelty suffered and an individual's need for benefits under a specific Federal, State or local program.

(5) Until such time as specific guidance is issued by the Attorney General in accordance with (b)3iv(4) above, the alien's statement, taken in the form of an affidavit, shall be accepted as documentation that the alien or the alien's child is subject to battery or extreme cruelty and the alien and the child(ren) shall be eligible for assistance.

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See: 29 N.J.R. 3971(b), 30 N.J.R. 389(a).

Added (b)1viii; and added a new (b)3 and recodified existing (b)3 as (b)4.

10:90-2.11 WFNJ TANF/GA residency requirements

(a) WFNJ/TANF residency requirements are as follows:

1. The law requires that an applicant for or recipient of WFNJ/TANF assistance shall reside in New Jersey. Any person who responds affirmatively to the question on the application "Do you plan to continue living in New Jersey?" fulfills this requirement. The requirement is also satisfied when the person resides in the State having entered with a job commitment or is seeking employment even if he or she is currently unemployed.

i. For those WFNJ/TANF applicants/recipients who have resided in New Jersey for less than 12 consecutive months, see provisions at N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(d).

(b) WFNJ/GA residency requirements are as follows:

1. A resident of a municipality is a person who maintains a permanent customary home in the municipality, or a person who is in the municipality with intention to remain. No time intervals are relevant so long as the home is not established for a temporary purpose such as for a visit or vacation. A resident may live in his or her own home, a rented home or apartment, the home of a friend or relative, in a residential health care facility or boarding home, homeless shelter or in a long-term care facility.

2. Nonresidents/transients are persons in a municipality who may not intend to remain in that municipality and who are not residents of long-term care facilities who shall, if otherwise eligible, be granted assistance until arrangements can be made to return them to their customary place of residence.

i. For any person in a municipality who is away from the municipality of his or her customary home and wishes to return but cannot, because of lack of funds, the agency shall grant sufficient funds to allow the individual to travel to his or her own municipality or to the nearest place at which it has been confirmed that the individual's needs may be met. Travel costs shall be estimated or ascertained, as appropriate, according to the least expensive method of travel which is appropriate. The travel grant shall be sufficient to allow payment for the fare and such food, clothing, or shelter as may be essential during the trip.

(1) When circumstances prevent an accurate determination as to whether an applicant would be otherwise eligible to receive WFNJ/GA, the agency will evaluate the application according to the best information available.

(2) Assistance for travel purposes in any amount over \$100.00 shall be granted only with prior approval from the DFD. Such approval shall be contingent upon the presence of the following positive indicators: the individual has actually resided where he or she wishes to go; there is a place for the individual to reside upon return; and someone will be responsible for the individual upon his or her return. Furthermore, the individual must not have established a pattern of requesting travel assistance annually or more frequently.

3. College students are individuals age 18 or over who are attending school or college. They may be found eligible for WFNJ/GA only when all of the following conditions are present:

i. He or she is a resident of the municipality in which application is made, and such municipality is his or her acknowledged home on a year-round basis;

(1) An individual coming from another state for the purpose of attending school or college is not eligible for WFNJ/GA during the period he or she is attending school;

ii. He or she is eligible in accordance with the eligibility provisions of the WFNJ/GA program;

iii. He or she shall comply with the WFNJ work requirements; and

iv. A college student shall not be eligible for WFNJ/GA while residing out-of-State in order to attend school.

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See: 29 N.J.R. 3971(b), 30 N.J.R. 389(a).

In (b)2i(2), added second and third sentences.

10:90-2.12 County/municipal residence for identification

(a) Residence in a county or municipality is not an eligibility requirement. A county or municipality of residence is necessary to identify which county/municipal agency is legally responsible for receipt, registration and processing an application and for issuance of payment, but shall not preclude or limit the opportunity for any person residing in New Jersey to apply for and receive assistance without delay.

(b) Wherever a family is living shall be considered that family's county or municipal residence. When a recipient family, or any member thereof, goes to another county, municipality or state for the purpose of a temporary visit, that county, municipality or state shall not become their residence unless it is a permanent transfer and provisions at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.13 apply.

(c) A public or private institution of custodial, curative or penal character shall not be considered an individual's customary residence.

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See: 29 N.J.R. 3971(b), 30 N.J.R. 389(a).

10:90-2.13 Temporary absence from the State (WFNJ TANF/GA)

(a) The county/municipal agency may, with the approval of the DFD, continue assistance payments to recipients who leave the State under specified conditions, such as, but not limited to, the need to provide temporary care to a sick or elderly relative when no one else is available to provide the care, or the recipient's presence is required in order to settle an estate. A recipient must notify the county/municipality when leaving the State for more than seven days. A recipient assistance unit may leave the State for up to a one month period with no resultant effect upon eligibility or payment. Special circumstances may allow for an extension of benefits beyond the one month time frame but such an extension must be approved by the DFD. Special circumstances include, but are not limited to, serious illness or accident while the recipient is out of the State, and a period of recuperation is required prior to returning to the State.

(b) Upon establishment of the fact that the recipient assistance unit still considers its permanent residence to be New Jersey and that it plans to return thereto, continuation of assistance shall be granted for the following reason(s):

1. Ill health;

2. Inability to travel of one or more members;

3. Mental or physical welfare; or

4. Family responsibility (for example, settling affairs of deceased).

(c) Assistance shall not be continued for a recipient assistance unit which leaves New Jersey when there has been no information provided to the county/municipal agency establishing that the absence is purely temporary.

(d) Whenever a recipient assistance unit wishes to leave New Jersey either to establish a permanent place of abode or for a temporary visit, he or she shall be advised of the effects of this plan on their eligibility for continued assistance, and on the amount of assistance, if any, for which he or she may continue to be eligible during a temporary absence.

(e) The county/municipal agency shall maintain an up-to-date record of all cases of recipients approved to receive assistance while out of the State.

(f) Recipients who are receiving assistance out-of-State shall be afforded the same full advance notice including information about their right to a fair hearing in accordance with present policy regarding termination, reduction or suspension applicable in WFNJ. A copy of any such notice shall be sent to any out-of-State agency with which there has been communication regarding the case.

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See: 29 N.J.R. 3971(b), 30 N.J.R. 389(a).

In (a), added language regarding conditions warranting continued assistance payments and added last sentence.

10:90-2.14 Responsibility of a parent to report temporary absence of a child from the home

(a) Eligibility for WFNJ/TANF may exist during the absence of a child from the home under the circumstances described in N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.15 and 2.16.

1. A parent or needy caretaker relative who fails to notify the county agency of the absence of the minor child from the home by the end of the five day period that begins with the date that it becomes clear to the parent or caretaker relative that the minor child will be absent for more than 180 consecutive days shall be ineligible for benefits for a period of three months.

i. The period of 90 days ineligibility for benefits shall begin on the first day of the month following the month in which the county agency becomes aware of the recipient's failure to notify the agency of the child's absence.