



Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) Funeral/Burial Allowance Policy Increase

Effective January 18, 2022 – June 30, 2022

On January 18th Governor Murphy signed into law legislation increased the State's allowance for WFNJ funeral/burial recipients for the fiscal year state budget that runs through 6/30/22.

In accordance with Work First New Jersey Manual regulations and Program Instruction #22-02-02 issued on February 16, 2022 the Department of Human Services (DHS) has increased the State's maximum combined adult welfare funeral payment by \$1,000 to \$3,770 retroactively to January 18, 2022.

This represents an increase in maximum allowances of

- \$3,056 toward funeral expenses, and
- \$714 in cemetery/crematory charges

Families, friends, and other interested parties of deceased welfare recipients may continue to supplement, by up to \$1,570 for a maximum combined WFNJ funeral of \$5,340.

The chart (as shared by the NJSFDA) below details the breakdown in allowances and supplementation by the age of decedent.

New Jersey Public Assistance Funeral/Burial Reimbursement Rates

DECEDENT AGE	FUNERAL	CEMETERY/CREMATORY	COMBINED FUNERAL/CEMETERY*	SUPPLEMENTATION ALLOWED	MAXIMUM PERMITTED
2 years and older	\$3,056	\$714	\$3,770	\$1,570	\$5,340
1 week to 2 years	\$2,494	\$583	\$3,077	\$1,178	\$4,255
Stillborn to 6 days	\$1,933	\$452	\$2,385	\$785	\$3,170

*Following preliminary determination by a County Welfare Agency, it may be determined that the funeral home and cemetery will receive less than what is allowed, as there is no guarantee that funeral homes and cemeteries will receive maximum amounts.

We await DHS guidance on how local CWA's will handle reimbursement for those WFNJ funerals previously paid between January 18, 2022 and the February announcement of the change in reimbursement rates.

Further, the NJCA is currently involved in joint discussions with the Funeral Director's Association and the State to continue to increase funding levels into the next fiscal year as well.