



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON  
*Assistant Commissioner*

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 **09303-23 K.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C267851009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and did not qualify for a further extension of EA benefits under the Emergency Assistance for Special Groups ("EASG") pilot program. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for December 21, 2023, but was postponed. On January 8, 2024, the Honorable William J. Courtney, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record closed on January 17, 2024.

On January 19, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, outlining the procedural history, providing a detailed factual timeline, and rendering a well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-6. Specifically, the ALJ found that Petitioner had exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, which included two six-month extreme hardship extensions, and as such, she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus two 6-month extreme hardship extensions. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d). The ALJ also found that, although Petitioner had previously received an extension of EA benefits under the EASG pilot program, she had been ineligible for said extension at that time, and that the Agency mistakenly authorized eligibility for such benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibit R-3, and the State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S866, P.L. 2018, c. 164, effective December 20, 2018 ("S866"), now codified at N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3), also known as EASG (extending EA benefits eligibility for certain categories of individuals, including, but not limited to Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") recipients who are permanently disabled, as documented by a twelve-month MED-1 Form, WFNJ recipients who must provide full-time care for a disabled child or other disabled dependent, as documented by a MED-5 Form, and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipients). Further, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not previously, and does not currently, meet the criteria for an extension of EA benefits under the EASG pilot program, as she was not, and is not, providing full-time care for her disabled child, and she was not, and is not, herself, an SSI benefits recipient, nor disabled as evidenced by a 12-month MED-1 form. See Initial Decision at 5-6; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3, and N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.



As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version. March 21, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

