



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 12900-23 S.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C193657007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of security deposit. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, because she was not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") or Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient, and therefore, was ineligible for EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for January 25, 2024, but was adjourned so that the Agency could provide Petitioner with their case summary and documentation which they intended to present at the hearing. The case was rescheduled, and on February 22, 2024, the Honorable Ernest M. Bongiovanni, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held the plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On February 29, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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

Only WFNJ cash assistance recipients and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for EA benefits in the form of security deposit. See Initial Decision at 2. At the time of her EA application, Petitioner was employed fulltime, but was on temporary disability. Ibid. Based on the evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner was ineligible for EA benefits because she was not a WFNJ or SSI benefits recipient, and furthermore, there was no proof of emergency, meaning that Petitioner was neither homeless nor imminently homeless. See Initial Decision at 3; see N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). As such, the ALJ concluded that Agency's decision to deny EA benefits was proper and must stand. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). I agree.

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

Officially approved final version. April 16, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

