



*State of New Jersey*

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Family Development  
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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 7886-14 C.O.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C135455 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 7, 2014, the Honorable Linda M. Kassekert, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 18, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

Neither party submitted exceptions.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I independently reviewed the record and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Petitioner receives Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits.

The Agency contends Petitioner is not eligible for an extension of EA under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot. Petitioner contends she is the sole caretaker of a severely disabled or seriously ill dependent child, does not have a computer and is unable to look for work.

Petitioner exhausted her 12-month lifetime EA limit, two 6-month extreme hardship extensions and a 12-month extension of EA under the Housing Hardship Extension

("HHE") pilot. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4; -6.9. In addition, Petitioner exhausted 12 months of EA under the HAP pilot. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10. The Agency also paid 10 months of retroactive utility bills.

Petitioner's December 2013 service plan required her to place her daughter in pediatric medical day care ("PMDC") and enroll herself in the Substance Abuse Initiative ("SAI") program. In March 2014, Petitioner placed her daughter in PMDC, and in April enrolled herself in the SAI program. In April, the Agency agreed to pay EA for April and May together with back utilities.

The HAP pilot authorizes an extension of EA for up to 24 months for qualified WFNJ recipients who are permanently disabled and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") recipients who are in danger of imminent homelessness. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10. Petitioner is not permanently disabled or an SSI recipient. In addition, Petitioner does not have a pending application for, or an appeal from the denial of, Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance and/or SSI benefits, and a Med-1 form substantiating at least 12 months of disability. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a)(1).

Equally material, Petitioner is not the sole caretaker of a severely disabled or seriously ill dependent child. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a)(1)(ii). Petitioner's child is now enrolled at a PMDC, Petitioner is otherwise employable and appropriate amendments to her individual responsibility plan can address any concerns regarding her ability to participate in WFNJ work activities.

For the foregoing reasons, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

**SEP 29 2014**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director