



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Jennifer Velez
Commissioner

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2000

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 13025-14 M.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA912600 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner benefits because it contends that she failed to provide adequate verification information. Because the Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 14, 2014, the Honorable Sandra Ann Robinson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On October 24, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's decision. The ALJ found that, based upon the weight of the evidence presented, Petitioner had made good faith efforts to obtain the designated documentation requested by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 6. Petitioner was able to provide documentation to the Agency, albeit not the exact documentation requested. See *id.* at 5-6. The ALJ concluded that the totality of the documentation provided by Petitioner, including notarized letters, was sufficient to prove where Petitioner had previously been residing. See *id.* at 7. Finding that Petitioner was imminently homeless, and in the midst of a problematic pregnancy, the ALJ reversed the Agency's determination and directed the Agency to meet with Petitioner as soon as possible to determine appropriate housing. See *id.* at 8.

Neither party filed exceptions to the Initial Decision.

As the Director of the 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 decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

NOV 07 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director