



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 6730-14 M.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S792718 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner additional EA as it contended that Petitioner had exhausted all available EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 23, 2014, the Honorable Joan Bedrin Murray, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On August 7, 2014, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner was not entitled to any further extension of EA benefits. The ALJ concluded that based upon the totality of the evidence presented at the hearing, Petitioner was not eligible for a further EA extension under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot program, N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10. See Initial Decision at 6. The evidence presented at the hearing contradicted Petitioner's assertion that she was disabled and not able to work. See *id.* at 6, 8. Additionally, the ALJ noted that Petitioner made not any showing that she was the sole caretaker of a severely disabled or seriously ill dependent child or family member, nor that she was facing imminent homelessness. See *id.* at 6.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision on behalf of Petitioner were filed on August 15, 2014.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision.

Following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and I hereby accept and adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as contained in the Initial Decision.

By way of comment, the Exceptions in this matter assert that Petitioner should be extended additional EA under the now defunct Supportive Housing Assistance Program ("SHAP"). To assert that Petitioner should now be entitled to receive additional perceived "unused" months of EA under a now defunct pilot program is misguided.

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

SEP 30 2014 *Signed Copy on File*
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director