



*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 16023-14 Z.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C151397 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA benefits because she is no longer a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") recipient and she had the capacity to plan in advance. On December 18, 2014, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence. On the same day, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Petitioner filed exceptions in this matter on December 22, 2014.

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 hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's action.

The purpose of EA is to meet the emergent needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work activities without disruption and continue on a path to self-sufficiency. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). In order to be eligible for EA benefits, N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c) provides, in pertinent part, that the individual must have, "an actual or imminent eviction from prior housing, and the assistance unit is in a state of homelessness or imminent homelessness due to circumstances beyond their control or the absence of a realistic capacity to plan in advance for substitute housing."

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

The record in this matter reveals that Petitioner signed a lease for an apartment on August 23, 2014. See Initial Decision at 2. According to Petitioner, her first month's rent and security deposit would be provided by Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation. Ibid. Subsequently, Petitioner was terminated from her job on August 28, 2014, and she began receiving unemployment benefits of \$216 per week beginning in October 2014. Ibid. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits on December 8, 2014. Ibid. Therefore, since Petitioner was no longer a WFNJ/TANF recipient, the ALJ determined that the Agency properly denied her EA application. I agree with this conclusion.

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

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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JAN -7-2015

Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director