



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
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 17014-17 S.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C010747018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's EA benefits contending that she has exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and retained a security deposit that had been paid by the Agency. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 13, 2017, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open for submission of additional documentation then closed on December 15, 2017.

On December 22, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner, a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient, had received 26 months of EA benefits and retained a security deposit that had been paid by the Agency for her previous housing. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and therefore, the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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 final conclusion 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 determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

JAN 3 0 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

