



State of New Jersey

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

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 01720-19 A.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S566075012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits and did not qualify for an extension of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for March 5, 2019, but was adjourned to allow Petitioner to obtain additional documentation. On March 26, 2019, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record closed. On April 9, 2019, the ALJ reopened the record to request that Respondent provide a detailed EA benefits payment history. Said payment history was provided on April 17, 2019, and the record then closed.

On April 29, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that, as of January 2019, Petitioner, a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance benefits recipient, had received 18 months of EA benefits, and as such, he had exhausted his 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus one six-month extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibits R-G, R-H, R-L, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). Consequently, by notice dated January 22, 2019, the Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-J. The record also indicates that Petitioner is not a Supplemental Security Income benefits recipient, and that he did not, and does not, have a MED-1 form indicating a 12-month disability. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-K. Based on the testimony and documentary evidence, the ALJ found that Petitioner has exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits and does not qualify for any further extensions of said benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d), and State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S866, P.L. 2018, c. 164, effective December 20, 2018. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 7; see also Exhibit R-J. 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 in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with his current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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



Officially approved final version.

JUN - 3 2019

Natasha Johnson
Director

