



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

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

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 07962-20 C.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C099007015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she did not have an emergency beyond her control. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 9, 2020, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 10, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and Petitioner acknowledged, that she is not currently in danger of being homeless. See Initial Decision at 3-4. Further, the ALJ found that Petitioner had documented that she is capable of either providing her own housing, or obtaining temporary shelter through charitable organizations, until such time as she can be placed in the short-term residential placement for substance abuse, which has been offered to her once a bed becomes available. Id. at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits, and that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

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

Officially approved final version.

SEP 24 2020

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

