



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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*Acting Commissioner*

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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 04120-21 A.N.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C618436007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that no current emergency existed. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 13, 2021, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 14, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner is not homeless or imminently homeless, and as such, she is ineligible for EA/TRA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c), -6.3(a)(1)(ii). Moreover, the record reflects that, at the time Petitioner applied for EA/TRA benefits, she was not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") or Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient, and on that basis, the ALJ also found that Petitioner was ineligible for EA/TRA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that that Agency's denial of EA/TRA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-1. 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.

By way of comment, as no adverse action had been taken by the Agency, with respect to the issue of Petitioner's voluntary quit of employment, that issue has not been addressed in this Final Agency Decision. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-1.



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

Officially approved final version.

**JUN - 9 2021**

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

