



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

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

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 01559-21 I.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C274426009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that he failed to provide required documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 16, 2021, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 18, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with documentation indicating that he was facing actual or imminent eviction, required to determine EA benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1)(ii). Moreover, the ALJ found that Petitioner was ineligible for Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") cash benefits due to his monthly income exceeding the income eligibility level for such benefits, and therefore, because Petitioner was not a WFNJ or Supplemental Security Income benefits recipient, he was ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; 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, 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.



MAR 04 2021

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner



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