



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 03985-21 K.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C147067007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that he was not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ"), nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 1, 2021, the Honorable William T. Cooper, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 17, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that, as an SSI benefits recipient, Petitioner had been eligible for, and receiving, EA benefits. However Petitioner acknowledged that commencing March 20, 2021, he stopped receiving SSI benefits and began receiving Retirement, Survivors and Disability, Insurance ("RSDI") benefits, and consequently, the Agency terminated his EA benefits because he was not a WFNJ, nor an SSI, benefits recipient. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-5, 15-16, 32-35. Based on Petitioner's receipt of RSDI benefits, the ALJ found that Petitioner was ineligible EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a) (limiting eligibility for EA benefits to WFNJ and SSI benefits recipients). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-5. 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.



Officially approved final version.

AUG 5 2021

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

