



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
Acting Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
Lt. Governor

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 00075-21 L.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S618870012 (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 she was ineligible for EA benefits because she 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 February 16, 2021, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open until February 23, 2021, to allow both parties to submit additional documentation. On March 8, 2021, the record was reopened when Petitioner submitted additional documents, and the record then closed on that date.

On March 22, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner is appealing the Agency's termination of EA benefits by notice dated September 24, 2020, with the effective date of termination being November 11, 2020. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). However, the ALJ found that this matter had been previously addressed by a Final Agency Decision issued on December 31, 2020, wherein the Division of Family Development ("DFD") had concluded that Petitioner was ineligible for EA benefits because she was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient, and she was not an SSI benefits recipient, and as such, was binding and could not be relitigated. See Initial Decision at 3-5, 8-9; see also Exhibit OAL-2. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, effective November 11, 2021, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 10; see also Exhibit R-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, DFD, 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, if Petitioner's financial circumstances have substantially changed, she may reapply for WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits, if she has not done so already. See Initial Decision at 10. Further,



the Agency is directed to expedite the review of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits applications, should she reapply.

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

Officially approved final version.      MAY 06 2021

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

