



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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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 **03529-23 A.D.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C708413007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of back utilities payments. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 27, 2023, the Honorable Ernest M. Bongiovanni, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On July 25, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

This office has been advised that the Agency is rescinding its denial of EA benefits to Petitioner. Therefore, as Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I hereby ORDER and DIRECT the Agency to provide Petitioner with EA benefits in the form of back utilities payments. Further, I find that this matter has now been rendered moot, and therefore, DISMISS Petitioner's appeal.

Accordingly, as Petitioner's appeal on this issue has now been deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version. August 30, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

