



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **06617-23 C.P.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C095507018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD 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 had exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of said benefits, plus all available extensions, and had failed to provide documentation required to determine her eligibility for a further extension of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 22, 2023, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 5, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record substantiates that Petitioner has received at least 24 months of EA benefits, and as such, she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-5 at 2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a). The ALJ also found that, after having been given many opportunities by the Agency to provide it with documentation, specifically a one-year MED-1 form, required to determine her eligibility for a further extension of EA benefits, Petitioner had failed to provide such required documentation. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b), and N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3), also known as Emergency Assistance for Special Groups ("EASG") (which extends EA benefits eligibility for certain categories of individuals). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7-9. 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, Petitioner is without prejudice to apply for an extension of EA benefits, but is reminded that she must provide all required documentation requested by the Agency in order for eligibility to be determined.



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

Officially approved final version. October 5, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

