



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 **02739-23 E.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S472406014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

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, and failed to provide documentation required to determine her eligibility for any applicable extension of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for May 4, 2023, but Petitioner failed to appear. The hearing was rescheduled and on May 26, 2023, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 28, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record substantiates that Petitioner has received at least 12 months of EA benefits, plus continued assistance pending the outcome of this appeal, and as such, she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 11-14, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a). Further, the ALJ found that, after having been given many opportunities by the Agency to provide it with documentation, specifically a MED-1 form required to determine her eligibility for an extension of EA benefits, Petitioner had failed to provide such required documentation. See Initial Decision at 2-4; 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 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-8. 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. August 15, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

