



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 **02875-23 R.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C148088007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

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 lifetime limit of EA benefits and all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 5, 2023, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On April 5, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner has received 24 months of EA benefits, and as such, Petitioner has exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all applicable hardship extensions. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). Of note, the ALJ also found that the approval of an extension of EA benefits, as stated in the Agency's adverse action notice, referred to the two EA benefits extensions already granted, and does not refer to an additional extension. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-2. Based on the foregoing, 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-2. 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 her 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. April 13, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

