



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 **01158-23 S.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C643622007 (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, plus all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 16, 2023, the Honorable Gail M. Cookson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took no testimony, and admitted documents.

On April 4, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that with the appropriate accounting for the seven-year disregard, Petitioner had received 27 months of EA benefits, inclusive of two six-month extreme hardship extensions, and as such, she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for any further extensions. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 15-22, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c), N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a) (4). 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 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-6. 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.

May 16, 2023

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

