



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 **07479-22 T.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C275231009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM 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 lifetime limit of EA benefits and did not qualify for an extension of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 11, 2022, the Honorable William J. Courtney, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 29, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, Petitioner acknowledged, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner has received more than the allowable 24 months of EA benefits for a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits recipient, and as such, she has exhausted her lifetime limit of said benefits, plus all available extensions. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d). Based on the testimony and evidence provided, the ALJ also found that Petitioner does not qualify for any further extensions of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 3-4. 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.

August 10, 2023

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

