



## State of New Jersey

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*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 **05788-23 V.T.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C097162008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of a security deposit and furniture voucher. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she was not yet a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits recipient, and had not provided documentary proof of an emergency. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 21, 2023, the Honorable Carl V. Buck, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open to allow the parties the opportunity to submit additional documentation, and then closed on July 31, 2023.

On August 7, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that, at the time Petitioner applied for EA benefits on March 14, 2023, her application for WFNJ/TANF benefits had not yet been approved, a requirement for EA benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-7, 9-10, 12, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Further, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with documentation indicating that she had an emergency, also needed for the Agency to determine EA benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2, 8, 14, 15, 17, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). Moreover, the record indicates that Petitioner had already moved into her apartment at the time of her EA benefits application, that half of her security deposit had been paid by her parents, that she has made arrangements with her landlord to pay the remaining half of the security deposit in monthly installments, and that her HUD voucher purportedly pays her entire rent of \$2,400. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 16-21. Of note, the record reflects that Petitioner began receiving WFNJ/TANF benefits on March 23, 2023. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 24. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5-7. 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 advised that she may reapply for EA benefits in the form of a furniture voucher, and that she must provide the Agency with all required documentation required to determine her eligibility for such voucher.

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

Officially approved final version. September 20, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

