



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 **08787-23 V.W.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C816031007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she was not homeless, or imminently homeless. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 8, 2023, the Honorable Patrice E. Hobbs, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 15, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, outlining the procedural history, providing a detailed factual timeline, and rendering a well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 1-3. Based on the credible testimony and documentary evidence submitted, the ALJ found that Petitioner's rent is current, concluded that she was not homeless, or imminently homeless, and as such, was ineligible for EA benefits. *Id.* at 2-3; see also Exhibits P-1, P-11, P-12, R-1, R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c) Accordingly, on that basis, the ALJ further concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-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.

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

Officially approved final version. December 27, 2023

Natasha Johnson



