



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 16335-24 A.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C129510001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits, and the denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits, and denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she is no longer a resident of Atlantic County. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 27, 2024, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 29, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing 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 2-9. Specifically, the ALJ found Petitioner credible when she testified that she does not permanently reside in either Gloucester or Atlantic counties, but rather is transient, moving back and forth between counties staying in temporary housing arrangements with friends and family. Id. at 2-4. Additionally, the ALJ found Petitioner credible when she testified that she intends to continue to reside in Atlantic County in order to be close to family. Id. at 3. Further, the ALJ found that if Petitioner had understood that an offer of shelter placement meant in a motel/hotel, rather than a communal housing placement, which would not have been inappropriate for three minor children and herself expecting a fourth child, she would not have refused said placement offer. Id. at 3-4. Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with regulatory authorities set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.12(c), N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.3 and -3.4, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits, and its denial of EA benefits, on the basis that she was not a resident of Atlantic County, must be reversed. Id. at 4-6; see also Exhibit R-3. I agree. Further, I remand the EA matter back to the Agency to provide Petitioner with appropriate housing placement, on an expedited basis, provided she is otherwise eligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 6.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED, the Agency's action is REVERSED, and the matter REMANDED to the Agency, as outlined above.



Officially approved final version. December 12, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

