



# State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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*Commissioner*

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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 **02350-24 N.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C091152018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she was not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On February 28, 2024, the Honorable Sarah H. Surgent, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On February 29, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner on the basis that Petitioner was not a WFNJ benefits recipient.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, following an independent review of this matter, I hereby dismiss this matter as moot, based on the discussion below.

I take official notice that another Initial Decision, docketed under OAL Docket number HPW 02341-24, issued on the same date and by the same ALJ as the present matter, also involves EA benefits with the same Petitioner. In that matter, Petitioner was determined eligible for EA benefits under certain terms. Therefore, as the remedy sought in the present case, specifically EA benefits, has been granted in another matter, involving the same Petitioner, I find the present matter to now be rendered moot, and therefore, DISMISS Petitioner's appeal in this matter.

Accordingly, Petitioner's appeal in the present matter having now been deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version. March 07, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

