



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 16726-15 A.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA534766 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of his Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, because it determined that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not meet the eligibility criteria for a further extension under the EA extreme hardship provision. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 17, 2015, the Honorable Lisa James-Beavers, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On January 6, 2016, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner has received 12 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 23-25. The record also shows that Petitioner applied for an extension of EA benefits under the extreme hardship provision, and indicated on his application that he had an offer of employment. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 14-15. The ALJ found that Petitioner's conditional offer of employment did not constitute as a bona fide offer. See Initial Decision at 2 and 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 22 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1)(i). The ALJ also found that Petitioner had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not meet the eligibility criteria for an extreme hardship extension. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. *Ibid.*

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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 in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

JAN 26 2016

Natasha Johnson
Director