



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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*Lt. Governor*

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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 19321-15 A.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA569658 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for an extreme hardship extension. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 15, 2015, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was kept open an additional day to allow for Petitioner to submit a medical diagnosis, at which time the record was closed. On December 16, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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 hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Based on an independent review of the record, I agree with the ALJ's conclusion to deny Petitioner EA benefits as she does not meet the criteria for an extreme hardship extension. See Initial Decision at 4.

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 25 2016**

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Natasha Johnson  
Director