



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 15216-15 M.Z.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C439370 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA") because Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA, plus all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 10, 2015, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 21, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

In the Initial Decision, the ALJ found that Petitioner is a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") recipient who has received 27 months of EA to date. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Agency's Check History Printout dated November 10, 2015. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA/TRA in November 2015, and denied her request for a three-month extreme hardship extension of EA, because Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA, plus all available extensions. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA/TRA, as well as its denial of her request for an extreme hardship extension, were proper and should be affirmed. See Initial Decision at 4.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

Page 2

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record and the ALJ's Initial Decision and, following an independent review of the record, I agree with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

JAN 26 2016

Natasha Johnson

Director