

## **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 15335-15 S.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C244722 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 26, 2015, the Honorable Irene Jones, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 15, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner had received 24 months of EA benefits, and did not meet the criteria for an extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development ("DFD"), 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 2 1 2016 Natasha Johnson Director