



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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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 16815-15 S.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA435293 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits under the extreme hardship extension. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits contending that he did not meet the eligibility criteria for an extreme hardship extension. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 18, 2015, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 4, 2016, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner had received 14 months of EA benefits, as of November 30, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner did not meet the criteria for an extension of EA benefits under the extreme hardship extension, at the time of the Agency's denial, on September 9, 2015. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1). Additionally the record shows that Petitioner applied for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits on September 22, 2015, which was after the Agency denied him an extension of EA benefits, but he does not have a MED-1 form, both of which are required for an extension of EA benefits pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(2). See Initial Decision at 2. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not meet these criteria, and was, therefore, not eligible for an extreme hardship extension. *Id.* at 4.

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 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