



## 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 14868-15 S.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C355084 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of a furniture voucher. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits contending that she had 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 November 2, 2015, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 13, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner had received 25 months of EA benefits, had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and, therefore, the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA benefits in the form of a furniture voucher. See Initial Decision at 2-3.

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 25 2016**

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Natasha Johnson  
Director