



State of New Jersey

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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 7292-17 F.F.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C145819007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for an extreme hardship extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 25, 2017, the Honorable Leland S. McGee, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 25, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner's household consists of herself and her son, who receives Supplemental Security Income benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner is ineligible for Work First New Jersey cash benefits due to a prior drug offense. Ibid. The record reflects that Petitioner has received 14 months of EA benefits as of September 26, 2000. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a). Additionally, the ALJ found that Petitioner does not meet the criteria for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). See Initial Decision at 4. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper, and must be affirmed. Ibid.; see also Exhibits R-1 and R-2. I agree.

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.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.



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

Officially approved final version.

MAY 3 2017

Natasha Johnson

Director

