



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 5996-17 G.N.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C127313016 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extreme hardship extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits contending that she 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 May 25, 2017, the Honorable Julio C. Morejon, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 30, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, the record indicates that Petitioner has received 12-months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner had exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, however, based on a totality of the record, the ALJ found Petitioner eligible for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b). Accordingly, the ALJ reversed the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1. Following an independent review of the record, and based on Petitioner's specific circumstances, I agree with the ALJ's conclusion. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b).

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 REVERSED.

11 07 2017

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson  
Director



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