



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 **08918-22 A.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C084517018 (SOMERSET 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, contending that 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 November 1, 2022, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 3, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner has received 55 months of EA benefits, and as such, she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8-20, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d). Petitioner did not dispute that she had exceeded her lifetime limit of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ also found, and concluded, that Petitioner did not qualify for any further extensions of EA benefits. *Id.* at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b), (d), and State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S866, P.L. 2018, c. 164, effective December 20, 2018 ("S866"), also known as EASG (extending EA benefits eligibility for specific categories of individuals), and Division of Family Development Instruction ("DFDI") No. 19-02-01. Based on the testimony and evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-7. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

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 is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.



Officially approved final version. December 22, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

