



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 **07225-22 A.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C124239011 (MERCER 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 August 24, 2022, the Honorable Joan M. Burke, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On August 25, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had received 35 months of EA benefits, 11 months of which were provided to Petitioner during the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency which ended on July 31, 2022, and as such, that she had exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and found that she did not qualify for any further extensions of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3, 5; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3, R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b)(1), and State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S866, P.L. 2018, c. 164, effective December 20, 2018 ("S866"), also known as Emergency Assistance for Specific Groups ("EASG") (which extends EA benefits eligibility for specific categories of individuals). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4-6; see also Exhibit R-1. The ALJ also found that the Agency had provided Petitioner with the appropriate 60-day notice on July 19, 2022, advising Petitioner that her EA benefits would terminate effective September 16, 2022. See Initial Decision at 3, 5; see also Exhibit R-4 at 2. Accordingly, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's determination. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

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.

August 31, 2022

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

