



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

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 **07645-22 E.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C154431020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION 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 he had exhausted his 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 September 30, 2022, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 6, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and Petitioner acknowledged, that Petitioner had received 25 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-4. The ALJ also found that Petitioner had been properly noticed by the Agency of the termination of his EA benefits due to exhaustion of the EA benefits time limit. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. The record reflects that Petitioner's only claim was that if his EA benefits were terminated, he would face a hardship, which the ALJ found did not constitute a basis for the provision of continued EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner has exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions and, as such, he is ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). Accordingly, the ALJ further concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; 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 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 his 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.

October 27, 2022

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

