



State of New Jersey

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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 **07670-22 J.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C116612015 (OCEAN 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 he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and did not qualify for a further extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for September 30, 2022, but was adjourned by the ALJ to allow Petitioner the opportunity to secure permanent housing and to seek legal counsel. On November 4, 2022, the Honorable Dean J. Buono, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 16, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Based on an independent review of the record, I find that Petitioner is a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits recipient. See Exhibit R-2. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had received 24 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibits R-1, R-3. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had exhausted his 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and that he did not qualify for any further extensions. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (f). Based on the foregoing, ALJ also concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; 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.

December 27, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

