



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 **00570-22 K.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C244366007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, on the basis that she was not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 27, 2022, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on January 27, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner was denied WFNJ/General Assistance ("GA") benefits because she had exhausted her lifetime limit of said benefits and did not qualify for an extension of such benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-2 through R-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), -2.4. Petitioner did not dispute that she had exhausted her WFNJ lifetime limit, and did not appeal the Agency's denial of WFNJ benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Consequently, because Petitioner was not a WFNJ benefits recipient, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA benefits. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner is ineligible for WFNJ benefits, having exceeded her lifetime limit, and as such, concluded that Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Accordingly, the ALJ further concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 3; see also Exhibit R-7. I agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on January 31, 2022.

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.

By way of further comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.



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

Officially approved final version. February 3, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

