



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 **09061-22 M.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C040456018 (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 had exhausted her 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. 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 38 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8-22. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b). The ALJ also concluded that Petitioner did not qualify for any further extensions of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b), (d). Accordingly, the ALJ determined 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 at 3-7. 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.

By way of further comment, the transmittal in this matter also indicates a contested issue pertaining to the termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. That issue was not addressed by the ALJ in the Initial Decision. If Petitioner still has an issue regarding a termination of SNAP benefits, she may request another fair hearing on that issue alone.



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

Officially approved final version. December 28, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

