



## 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 **08145-22 T.P.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S417360010 (HUNTERDON COUNTY BD. 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 October 11, 2022, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 19, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here the ALJ found, the record substantiates, and Petitioner did not dispute, that she had received 27 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 23-25. Petitioner also acknowledged that she had not provided the Agency with a 12-month Med-1 form, a requirement for any further extension of EA benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 26-30, 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 certain categories of individuals, including, but not limited to WFNJ recipients who are permanently disabled, as documented by a 12-month Med-1 form. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and that she did not qualify for any further extensions of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development (DFD), 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, Petitioner is advised that if she can provide the Agency with a Med-1 form indicating a 12-month disability, she may apply for EA benefits under the EASG pilot. See S866; see also Exhibit R-1 at 28-30.

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

Officially approved final version.

November 29, 2022

---

Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

