



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 **09391-25 C.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C309525020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that he failed to provide all required documentation needed to determine EA benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 2, 2025, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On June 3, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for EA benefits on April 25, 2025, and advised that he has been homeless since February 2024, and traveled through several states looking for employment. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency representative interviewed Petitioner on April 25, 2025, and Petitioner was provided with a list from the Agency requesting documentation necessary to determine eligibility for EA benefits which needed to be received by May 23, 2025, specifically, documentation verifying that Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") case was reopened with proof of his whereabouts from May 2024 to April 2025, signed and dated letters including full address and contact information, length of stay, date and reason Petitioner had to leave the locations he was staying, and any copy of lease or utility bills for those locations, an affidavit or statement of Petitioner's whereabouts from May 2024 to April 2025, and proof of hotel stays in Georgia and Arizona. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner failed to submit any documentation as requested by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 4. When the requested information was not returned by the due date, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA benefits on May 27, 2025. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner maintained that the Agency representative was lying, but offered no proofs that he provided any of the requested documentation or verifications to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2-6; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2(a)(5), -6.3(a)(1)(ii), -6.6. 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, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for EA benefits, should he continue to need EA benefits and is otherwise eligible for same in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1 et seq, but is reminded that he must provide all required documentation needed to determine eligibility for EA benefits.



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

Officially approved final version. June 05, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

