



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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 10102-25 D.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. V744589 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she had sufficient income to pay her rent. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. This matter was initially scheduled for a hearing on August 7, 2025, at which time the hearing was postponed to September 2, 2025. Following a conference on September 2, 2025, the matter was adjourned and rescheduled for October 23, 2025, at which time the Agency failed to appear and the matter was rescheduled for November 7, 2025. On November 7, 2025, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On November 14, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a)(1), EA benefits shall be made available "[w]hen shelter costs equal or exceed total recorded income to the [Work First New Jersey] WFNJ or [Supplemental Security Income] SSI assistance unit and the recipient is unable to document other sources of income, for example, loans from relatives, which enable the individual or family to meet monthly housing/living expenses[.]"

Here, the ALJ found, the record substantiates, and Petitioner acknowledged, that she receives \$998.25 per month in SSI benefits (as of April 2, 2025). See Initial Decision at 2. The record also reflects that Petitioner's monthly rent was \$823 (as of April 2, 2025). Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner had sufficient income to pay her rent, and as such, she was ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. Id. at 3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3)(v). I agree.

By way of comment, should Petitioner's circumstances change, she may reapply for EA benefits.

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



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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

