



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 19812-25 M.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C900497007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because she is not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") benefits recipient, nor is she a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. Prior to the hearing, Petitioner withdrew her hearing requests regarding WFNJ and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. See Exhibit R-1. On December 4, 2025, the Honorable Sandra L. Lascari, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 5, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), 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 denial of EA benefits to Petitioner, based on the discussion below.

Only WFNJ cash assistance recipients and SSI benefits recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for EA benefits initially on October 6, 2025, and was denied. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner returned to the Agency on November 3, 2025, and was provided with immediate need shelter placement for thirty days. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner again applied for EA benefits on December 2, 2025, and, on that same day, the Agency denied Petitioner's EA application, as Petitioner was found ineligible to receive WFNJ benefits due to her receipt, and the amount, of Unemployment Benefits she was receiving from Pennsylvania. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.3, -6.2(a). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that, because Petitioner was not a WFNJ benefits recipient, nor an SSI benefits recipient, the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I agree.

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.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's denial of EA benefits is AFFIRMED, as outlined above.



Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

