



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 **14159-25 S.E.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S495298014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

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, due to her receipt of monthly Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits, 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. On August 18, 2025, the Honorable Bindi Merchant, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open and closed the following day. On August 19, 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 on August 12, 2025, requesting a shelter placement. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency denied Petitioner's EA application, by notice dated August 12, 2025, as Petitioner receives monthly unearned income from RSDI benefits which exceed the maximum permissible benefit level of \$277 for WFNJ benefits eligibility. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a), -3.6(a), -3.9(e). Additionally, based on Petitioner's monthly RSDI benefits in the amount of \$1,240, she is not an SSI benefits recipient. See Initial Decision at 2. 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 Petitioner's EA benefits 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 termination of Petitioner's EA benefits is AFFIRMED, as outlined above.



Officially approved final version. August 27, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

