



# State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR  
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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 **01060-26 D.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C708413007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. This matter was initially scheduled for February 23, 2026, however, due to inclement weather, had to be postponed. On March 25, 2026, the Honorable Bindi Merchant, held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed the following day on March 26, 2026. On March 31, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

This office has been advised that Petitioner is receiving EA benefits, and that all of Petitioner's rent has been paid to date. Therefore, as Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I find that, as no contested case exists and this matter has now been rendered moot, Petitioner's appeal may be DISMISSED.

Accordingly, Petitioner's appeal now being deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED with prejudice.

Officially approved final version. May 13, 2026

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

