



## State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR  
*Commissioner*

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL  
*Lt. Governor*

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 12272-25 D.N.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C246685004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

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 December 15, 2025, the Honorable Kimberley M. Wilson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 30, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for EA benefits on November 18, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Within the application for benefits, Petitioner indicated that he had last resided with a family member but that the house where he was staying was deemed uninhabitable and thus, he was homeless. *Ibid.* In addition, at the time of his application, the Agency representative determined that Petitioner had already received twelve months of EA benefits, and that in order to receive any further EA benefits, Petitioner would need to complete an application for a hardship extension. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner did provide the Agency with a letter from his family member regarding the prior residence where he was staying, however, the letter also stated "I don't know what this says. Can't see." See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. The Agency representative attempted to contact the family member by telephone to confirm information, but was unsuccessful. See Initial Decision at 3. Further, Petitioner failed to return the completed hardship extension application to the Agency. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit P-1. When the requested hardship application and information were not returned by the due date, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA benefits on December 10, 2024. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1.

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. 10:90-6.1(c), -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. February 18, 2026

---

Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

