



*State of New Jersey*

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Family Development  
P.O. Box 716  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie  
*Governor*

Kim Guadagno  
*Lt. Governor*

Jennifer Velez  
*Commissioner*

Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
*Director*  
Tel. (609) 588-2000

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 8843-14 A.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA89787 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her request for an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP"). Because Petitioner appealed, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 15, 2014, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 22, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

Neither party filed exceptions to the Initial Decision.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

The purpose of EA is to meet the emergent needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work activities without disruption and continue on a path to self-sufficiency. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). Only Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") recipients and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") recipients, are eligible for emergency assistance. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2.

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EA benefits are limited to twelve months, plus limited extensions for "extreme hardship" where the recipient has taken "all reasonable steps to resolve the emergent situation but the emergency nonetheless continues or a new emergency occurs, which causes extreme hardship to the individual." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4; N.J.S.A. 44:10-51. Specifically, a WFNJ/General Assistance ("GA") recipient such as the Petitioner may qualify for an additional six months of EA when an "extreme hardship" exists.

In the event a WFNJ/GA recipient does not qualify for an "extreme hardship" extension or has exhausted the "extreme hardship" extension, she may qualify for an extension under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP"), N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10. To qualify for an extension under the HAP, a WFNJ/GA recipient must have a Med-1 form substantiating 12 months of disability and have applied for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") or have appealed the denial of a SSI application. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10.

The record for this matter demonstrates that the Petitioner applied for SSI, but her application was denied, and although she has a completed MED-1 form, she has been determined disabled for a period of only eight months. As such, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Petitioner failed to demonstrate that she qualifies for an extension of EA under HAP.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency determination is hereby AFFIRMED.

OCT 31 2014

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director