



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 7922-14 A.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA362277 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 13, 2014, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 14, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which reversed the Agency determination.

Neither party submitted exceptions.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I independently reviewed the record and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency determination.

Petitioner receives Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits.

The Agency denied Petitioner's application for an extension of EA under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot in material part because he allegedly exhausted available EA. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10. The ALJ found Petitioner was still HAP-eligible because he last received EA in 2011, before adoption of the HAP.

In relevant part, the HAP authorizes an extension of EA for up to 24 months for qualified WFNJ recipients who are permanently disabled and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") recipients who are in danger of imminent homelessness. Petitioner

previously exhausted his 12-month lifetime EA limit and applicable 6-month extreme hardship extension, and has a pending application for SSI benefits supported by a current, 12-month Med-1 form. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a)(1). Under the circumstances, the ALJ appropriately directed the Agency to fully evaluate Petitioner's HAP application on its merit.

For the foregoing reasons, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency determination.

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

SEP 29 2014

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director