



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
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Director

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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 2506-15 A.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA466246 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's grant of Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of a shelter placement because she preferred placement at a specific shelter that had no available space. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 18, 2015, the Honorable Sandra Ann Robinson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held an emergent hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On March 19, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

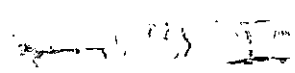
As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Initial Decision and AFFIRM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

"The [Agency] shall determine the most appropriate form of [EA] which is required to address the need . . . taking into consideration individual/family circumstances and services provided. Such [EA] shall include placement in shelters; hotel/motel placement; transitional housing; or shelters for victims of domestic violence." N.J.A.C. 10:900-6.3(a)(1). Petitioner, an employable Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits recipient, refused EA benefits in the form of a shelter placement because she could not move into a specific shelter

which had no available space to accommodate her. Initial Decision at 2, 4. Petitioner has since become homeless and is willing to accept a shelter placement chosen by the Agency. Ibid. Because Petitioner's circumstances have materially changed, she may immediately reapply for EA benefits, subject to applicable eligibility criteria.

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

MAR 26 2015



*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director