



*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 9877-14 C.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. V782299 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Emergency Assistance in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("EA/TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner's application due to a lack of emergent circumstances. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 3, 2014, the Honorable Linda M. Kassekert, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On September 9, 2014, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ noted that Petitioner had requested EA/TRA in February when Petitioner's Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") was decreased due to an overpayment. See Initial Decision at 2. At that time, the Agency approved Petitioner for EA through June 2014, indicating that Petitioner would need to apply again for any additional EA/TRA. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 31. Even though Petitioner's SSI was restored to its full amount, Petitioner reapplied for additional EA in late May 2014. See Initial Decision at 2. That request was denied by the Agency due to a lack of emergent circumstances. See Initial Decision at 3, 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 43. After reviewing the evidence, the ALJ agreed with the Agency, finding that the household's income exceeded the rent, and there being no threat to health and safety, the Agency had properly denied Petitioner's EA request. See Initial Decision at 4.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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As the Director of the 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 decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

By way of comment, the transmittal form in this matter also indicates that Petitioner was denied EA for a furniture voucher and utilities assistance. While these specific issues were not addressed by the ALJ, the reasoning for the denial of these services is the same as for TRA, and with which I concur. See Exhibit R-1 at 43. Specifically, Petitioner has excess income sufficient to cover these expenses, and Petitioner has not presented evidence of any emergent situation to warrant the Agency issuing a furniture voucher or paying for Petitioner's utilities.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's action in this matter is AFFIRMED.

OCT 23 2014

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director