



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 19133-15 C.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. V629316 (MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the forms of security deposit, first month rent, and furniture voucher. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because it determined that she moved from Florida to New Jersey without a plan for permanent housing, and had other sources of support available. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 9, 2015, the Honorable Elia A. Pelios, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On December 10, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner and her family moved from Florida to New Jersey to live with her relatives, due to Petitioner's on-going health issues. See Initial Decision at 2. The record also shows that Petitioner is not homeless, and is not the subject of a pending eviction. *Id.* at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1. The ALJ found that Petitioner did not demonstrate that she is currently experiencing a housing emergency, because she is not homeless or imminently homeless. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied Petitioner's application for EA benefits for the foregoing reasons. See Initial Decision at 3.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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 final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

DEC 28 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director