



## 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*

Elizabeth Connolly  
*Acting Commissioner*

Nalasha Johnson  
*Director*  
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 12449-15 J.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C083981 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA") because she failed to comply with her service plan for failure to locate affordable housing and completing a requisite number of housing searches. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 15, 2015, the Honorable Diana C. Sukovich, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On October 6, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision reversing the Agency determination.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by the Agency on November 12, 2015. In its Exceptions, the Agency has advised that, since the date of the fair hearing in this matter on September 15, 2015, Petitioner has located long-term, transitional housing for herself and her grandchildren. The facility requires a shelter contribution of 30 percent of the resident's household income which, together with EA, the Agency believes is affordable to Petitioner. After an independent evaluation of the record, I agree with the Agency that, with EA, Petitioner can maintain adequate housing at this location. See Agency's Exceptions filed November 12, 2015.

Therefore, as the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I hereby find that, because the issues raised in the original fair hearing are now moot, Petitioner's appeal should now be dismissed.

By way of comment, Petitioner is reminded of her required 30 percent monthly shelter contribution to the facility, and of her continued obligation to comply with the terms of her service plan.

Inasmuch as the issues raised in the Initial Decision have been rendered moot, Petitioner's appeal is hereby dismissed.

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

---

Natasha Johnson  
Director

**NOV 16 2015**