



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

Natasha 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 6512-15 J.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. V42868028 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because he failed to provide the Agency with the documents required to determine EA eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 21, 2015, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 22, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, which affirmed the Agency's action.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

The purpose of EA is to meet the emergent needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work activities without disruption and continue on the path to self-sufficiency. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). In order to be eligible for EA benefits, N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c) provides, in pertinent part, that the individual must have "an actual or imminent eviction from prior housing, and the assistance unit is in a state of homelessness or imminent

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homelessness due to circumstances beyond their control or the absence of a realistic capacity to plan in advance for substitute housing." Documentation must be presented to the Agency demonstrating that an eviction is pending or has already occurred. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1)(ii).

Here, Petitioner applied for EA benefits and was denied by the Agency because he failed to provide them with documentation of actual or imminent homelessness, a threshold criterion for EA eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2, 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). Additionally, the record indicates that Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with other requested documentation needed to determine EA eligibility. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ found, and I concur, that the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA benefits.

By way of comment, Petitioner may re-apply for EA benefits provided he continues to need EA benefits and is otherwise eligible for EA in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1. However, Petitioner must provide the Agency with all requested documents in order for it to determine his EA eligibility. Otherwise, the Agency will again be warranted in denying him EA benefits.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is AFFIRMED.

MAY 28 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director