



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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 1943-15 J.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA298682 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits under the extreme hardship extension. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits because he did not meet any of the criteria for eligibility under the extreme hardship extension. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 13, 2015, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On April 16, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record indicates that Petitioner has exhausted 12 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner did not meet any of the criteria, set out in N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1), required for an extreme hardship extension of EA past the 12-month lifetime limit for EA benefits. *Id.* at 2-4. Additionally, the ALJ noted that Petitioner is not a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") recipient and therefore not eligible for an EA extension under the Housing Hardship Extension ("HEE") pilot program. *Id.* at 3. Lastly, the ALJ found that Petitioner was not eligible for an extension of EA benefits under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot, because he had not applied for SSI, he had not provided the Agency with a Med-1 form substantiating at least 12 months of a disability, nor did he meet any of the other criteria needed for HAP eligibility. *Id.*

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.

By way of comment, Petitioner may reapply for an extension of EA benefits, should his circumstances change, he is still in need of EA benefits, and he is otherwise eligible for an extension of EA benefits in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4 and -6.10.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

MAY 19 2013

Natasha Johnson
Director