



*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*

Jennifer Velez  
*Commissioner*

Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
*Director*  
Tel. (609) 588-2000

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 9937-14 J.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA340961 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 14, 2014, the Honorable Linda M. Kassekert, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 15, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

Neither party submitted exceptions.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I independently reviewed the record and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Petitioner receives Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"). The ALJ found Petitioner ineligible for an extreme hardship extension of EA under N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1). Petitioner contends she needs a private setting with adequate cooking facilities and where she can store more of her personal belongings.

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 a 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 relevant 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 homelessness due to circumstances beyond their control or the absence of a realistic capacity to plan in advance for substitute housing."

EA benefits are limited to 12 months, plus limited extensions for "extreme hardship" where the recipient has taken all reasonable steps to resolve the emergent situation but the emergency nevertheless continues or a new emergency occurs, which causes extreme hardship to the family." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4; N.J.S.A. 44:10-51. Specifically, a WFNJ/GA recipient may qualify for an additional 6 months of EA when an "extreme hardship" exists. Ibid. In relevant part, an extension of EA based upon extreme hardship shall be provided when there is a "danger of a loss of employment or a bona fide offer of employment by the recipient adult." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1)(i). Thus, the maximum amount of EA a WFNJ/GA recipient may receive is 18 months.

The record for this matter indicates that the Petitioner has exhausted 16 months of EA. She currently lives in a free shelter and is not homeless. As such, Petitioner is not eligible for EA at this time. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1. Moreover, Petitioner is not in danger of a loss of employment or a bona fide offer of employment, nor does she meet any of the other extreme hardship criteria under N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b).

For the foregoing reasons, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

**AUG 26 2014**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director