



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
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Acting Commissioner

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Director

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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 11188-15 J.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C244938 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied her request for EA benefits due to a voluntary quit from her employment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 4, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 5, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency 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 a path to self-sufficiency. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). EA is available where 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." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). However, "[EA] shall not be provided to a [Work First New Jersey] applicant when an actual or imminent state of homelessness exists as the direct result of the voluntary cessation of employment ... without good cause." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

In this matter, the record is clear that Petitioner voluntarily quit her job without good

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cause. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ ordered that the Agency's action denying Petitioner EA be affirmed. See id. at 4. I concur. Moreover, the record shows that Petitioner clearly had available funds to pay her rent. See Exhibit R-1.

As I agree that Petitioner voluntarily quit her job without good cause, thereby causing her own homelessness, Petitioner shall be ineligible for EA for a period of six months, effective July 1, 2015. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3)(vi).

By way of comment, because the Petitioner indicated that she is a domestic violence victim in her application for EA, if it has not done so already the Agency shall refer the Petitioner for a Family Violence Option risk assessment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-20.1 et seq.

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

*Signed Copy on File*

at DFD, BARA

**AUG 20 2015**

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Natasha Johnson

Director