



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 7885-15 J.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA390813 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her request for an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot, N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10. The Agency denied Petitioner's request because it contended that Petitioner had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA and any available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 4, 2015, the Honorable Leland S. McGee, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence. On June 4, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on June 8, 2015.

Exceptions were filed by the Agency on June 18, 2015. The Exceptions stated that Petitioner's EA benefits had been incorrectly terminated due to an administrative error.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the Initial Decision and the filed Exceptions, and I hereby REJECT the ALJ's Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency's determination.

In light of the filed Exceptions of the Agency, stating that Petitioner's EA was incorrectly terminated due to an administrative error, I am rejecting the ALJ's Initial Decision. I direct the Agency to reinstate Petitioner's EA benefits immediately and pay any retroactive benefits in an expeditious manner due to the filed eviction proceeding against Petitioner.

Based upon the foregoing, the Initial Decision is hereby REJECTED and the Agency's determination is REVERSED.

JUN 19 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director