



## 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 11371-14 K.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA315110 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 15, 2014, the Honorable Imre Karaszegi, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On the same date, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision. The ALJ reversed the denial of EA because the Agency failed to provide adequate notice. The ALJ ordered the Agency to provide Petitioner with EA for the months of August and September 2014, and if necessary, EA for October 2014.

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 record and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and I REVERSE the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's action in denying Petitioner an EA extreme hardship extension.

In the present matter, even if Petitioner received inadequate notice of the denial of an extreme hardship extension, I find that such notice does not change that Petitioner was not eligible for an extreme hardship extension. Petitioner, a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance client, has received her maximum lifetime amount of EA. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a)(limiting EA to 12 months). Further, it does not appear that Petitioner qualifies for an extreme hardship extension. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1)(providing list of situations eligible for extreme hardship) and Exhibit R-1, Agency Notice. Therefore, I affirm the Agency's denial of an EA extreme hardship extension to Petitioner.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs.

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

**OCT - 3 2014**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director