



*State of New Jersey*

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Family Development  
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TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

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*Governor*

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*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 8806-14 K.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C402092 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of a furniture voucher. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was referred to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 8, 2014, the Honorable Ellen S. Bass, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents and issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency's 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 Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), EA in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits and utility assistance.

WFNJ/EA is a supportive service designed "to meet the emergent needs of WFNJ recipients, so that recipients shall not be prevented from complying with the work requirements due to disruptions caused by homelessness and related emergencies." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). EA is also available to SSI recipients. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2. The Agency may pay for essential home furnishings. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3.

In July 2012, the Petitioner used a voucher intended to purchase a dinette, dresser and sofa to buy a futon. In November 2013, the Agency denied Petitioner's request

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for a voucher to purchase a futon, sofa and table, contending the loss was not the result of a natural disaster and that the Petitioner had sufficient funds to afford furniture. In April 2014, I affirmed the Agency determination.

In June 2014, the Agency denied Petitioner's request for a voucher for a sofa set, television stand and box spring. Petitioner now contends she does not want a voucher, but rather a cash payment of at least \$1,000.00 to enable her to buy "furniture for an apartment – everything."

EA in the form of furniture assistance is available where there has been a loss of furnishings due to natural disaster, or where the applicant or recipient lacked the realistic capacity to plan for their loss. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). Furniture assistance is also available when the applicant or recipient is moving to a new location where there is no essential furniture. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(4)(ii).

None of the foregoing circumstances are present, Petitioner's request for a direct cash payment to her is inappropriate and in any event the amount of her request exceeds applicable assistance guidelines. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(4)(i).

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

**SEP 29 2014**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director