



State of New Jersey

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 16939-15 L.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S507222 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because it determined that she exhausted her lifetime limit of EA and all available extensions, and she had sufficient household income to pay her rent. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 30, 2015, the Honorable Leland S. McGee, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On November 2, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner received 90 months of EA benefits, and applied for a further extension of EA under the extreme hardship provision of the EA regulations. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). The record also shows that Petitioner's assistance unit ("AU") receives the following monthly benefits and income: \$35 in Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") cash benefits; \$764 in Social Security Disability Insurance ("SSDI"), a/k/a SSD, benefits; \$287 in Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits; and \$511 in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Additionally, the record shows that Petitioner's monthly rental cost is \$977. *Ibid.* The ALJ found that Petitioner had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not meet the eligibility criteria for a further extension. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a) and (b). The ALJ also found that Petitioner's total

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recorded income exceeded her rental expense. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a)(1). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied Petitioner's application for an extension of EA for the aforementioned reasons. Id. at 4.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File
NOV 13 2015 at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director