



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Nalasha Johnson
Director
Tel (609) 588-2400

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 5381-15 M.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA389282 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because he failed to comply with his service plan ("SP"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 13, 2015, the Honorable W. Todd Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 15, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, which affirmed the Agency's action.

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 ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's 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). In order to maintain eligibility for EA benefits, the recipient must take reasonable steps to resolve his emergent situation. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a). Reasonable steps include, but are not limited to, the recipient participating in the creation of and complying with a written and signed SP. Ibid. If a recipient fails to comply with the SP, without good cause, then the recipient's EA benefits must be terminated for a period of six months. Ibid.

The record indicates that Petitioner entered into an SP, wherein he was required to apply for low income housing. See Initial Decision at 1-2. Additionally, the Agency provided Petitioner with a list of subsidized housing he was required to apply to, yet he failed to enroll with most of the properties on the list. Id. at 2. Moreover, Petitioner provided no showing of good cause as to why he failed to apply for the low income housing on the list. Id. at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ found, and I concur, that Petitioner violated his SP by not completing his required housing searches. Id. at 4. Therefore, the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. Further, Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six-months. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

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

JUN 02 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director