



*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 15077-14 M.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C294601 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her request for Emergency Assistance ("EA") in form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA because it contended that Petitioner had abandoned affordable housing in Puerto Rico and come to New Jersey with no plan for self-sufficiency. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 20, 2014, the Honorable Sandra Ann Robinson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On November 21, 2014, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, which affirmed the Agency's denial of EA benefits and imposition of a six month period of EA ineligibility. See Initial Decision at 11. The ALJ noted that Petitioner had previously been denied EA and appealed, resulting in a Settlement Agreement. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit J-1. Petitioner had asserted that she left Puerto Rico due to domestic violence. See Initial Decision at 6. The Settlement Agreement had agreed to send Petitioner for a Family Violence Risk Assessment and thereafter, reevaluate Petitioner's EA eligibility. See Exhibit J-1. The Risk Assessment Report indicated no current safety issues due to domestic violence. See Exhibit R-6 at 2. The ALJ further noted that Petitioner had a Restraining Order in place in Puerto Rico, which the offender had not violated, yet Petitioner had abandoned permanent affordable housing to come to New Jersey. See Initial Decision at 8. The ALJ further found that Petitioner is not homeless or imminently homeless. See *id.* at 10. Following a comprehensive analysis, the ALJ agreed with the Agency's denial of EA and upheld the imposition of a six month period of ineligibility. See *id.* at 11.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by counsel on behalf of Petitioner on December 1, 2014.

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 decision 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 action is hereby AFFIRMED.

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

DEC - 2 2014

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director