



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

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*Governor*

Kim Guadagno  
*Lt. Governor*

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*Acting Commissioner*

Natasha Johnson  
*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 15401-15 N.F.

AGENCY DKT. NO. V966961 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits under the extreme hardship extension. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits contending that she abandoned her apartment, and failed to provide the Agency with documentation to show good cause for that abandonment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 28, 2015, the Honorable Danielle Pasquale, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The October 28th hearing continued on November 10, 2015, and the record was closed. On November 10, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination.

Based on an independent review of the record, I find that Petitioner was eligible for an extension of EA benefits under the Housing Assistance Program pilot at the time she applied for an extension of said benefits on June 19, 2015. Therefore, as the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I hereby ORDER and DIRECT the Agency to rescind its denial and provide Petitioner with EA benefits, and further, I find that this matter has now been rendered moot, and I therefore DISMISS Petitioner's appeal.

By way of comment, as the record indicates that the Petitioner has an open case with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency ("DCP&P"), f/k/a DYFS, a copy of the Initial and Final Decisions shall be forwarded to DCP&P.

By way of further comment, as it appears from the record that Petitioner is not receiving Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, on behalf of her child, the Agency is directed to assist Petitioner with applying for WFNJ/TANF benefits, if it has not already done so. Additionally, if it has not done so already, the Agency shall refer the Petitioner to any supportive services, agencies, or programs, for victims of domestic violence.

Accordingly, Petitioner's appeal now being deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED.

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

NOV 26 2015

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Natasha Johnson  
Director