



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 6442-15 R.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA274025 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of his request for an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA") under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot. The Agency denied Petitioner's EA extension request because he exhausted his lifetime limit of EA, plus all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 28, 2015, after the parties having mutually agreed to the adjournment of an earlier scheduled plenary hearing, the Honorable Elia A. Pelios, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record in the matter closed on August 6, 2015, upon the ALJ's receipt of Petitioner's documents in support of his argument.

On August 28, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination. Here, the parties agreed that, although the HAP pilot expired on July 2, 2015, an examination of Petitioner's eligibility for an extension of EA under HAP was appropriate because he filed his application for same prior to the date on which HAP expired. See Initial Decision at 2. The record is clear that Petitioner has received sixty-one months of EA over his life time, which is well over the maximum number of months allowed for EA plus any applicable extensions thereto, including all extensions available under HAP. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-4 at 1-10.

In his Initial Decision, the ALJ found that Petitioner has received his lifetime limit of EA, plus all available any extensions. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4. Moreover, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner otherwise failed to meet his

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burden to demonstrate eligibility for further EA benefits under the former HAP pilot due to the absence of a 12-month Med-1 form. See Initial Decision at 4. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's EA extension application was proper and should be affirmed. Ibid. I concur.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and, following an independent evaluation of the record, I agree with the ALJ's Initial Decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions 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

SEP 21 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director