



*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 11248-14 T.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C103293 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 26, 2014, the Honorable Joan Bedrin Murray, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, heard testimony and admitted documents. On September 29, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which reversed the Agency determination.

Neither party submitted exceptions.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, I independently reviewed the record and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency determination.

Petitioner receives Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits.

In June 2014, the Agency terminated EA without timely and adequate notice to Petitioner and an opportunity to apply for an extreme hardship extension under N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). N.J.A.C. 10:90-9.1. In July, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for an extreme hardship extension. The ALJ credited Petitioner's testimony the denial of EA was likely to result in the imminent break-up of her family and the placement of her children in foster care. As a result, the ALJ reversed the Agency determination, and under the circumstances, granted retroactive and prospective EA in the form of temporary rental assistance through December. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1)(ii); -6.3(a)(5).

Having properly determined Petitioner's appeal, the ALJ did not have to reach the issue whether Petitioner is eligible for an extreme hardship extension because she took "all reasonable steps to resolve the emergent situation but the emergency nonetheless continue[d] or a new emergency occur[ed.]" N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). Therefore, this Final Agency Decision is not predicated on the aforementioned regulation.

For the foregoing reasons, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency determination.

NOV 06 2014

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

---

Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director