



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 3938-15 T.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA229676 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she was not eligible for an extension of EA benefits under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 20, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On May 4, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. At the time of the hearing, the ALJ found that Petitioner had received 18 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. EA benefits, for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") recipients, are limited to 12 months, plus one six-month extension for an "extreme hardship," if applicable. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). Thus, the maximum amount of EA benefits that a WFNJ/GA benefits recipient may receive is 18 months. Further, the ALJ found that Petitioner applied for Supplemental Security Income, but failed to provide the Agency with the required Med-1 form indicating at least 12 months of a disability, and therefore, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a)(1)(i), she failed to meet the necessary criteria for an extension of EA benefits under HAP. See Initial Decision at 2. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

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 final conclusion in this matter 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 determination is AFFIRMED.

MAY 26 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director