



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

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 9038-15 W.O.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA100666 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits under an extreme hardship extension. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits under an extreme hardship extension because he did not meet the eligibility criteria. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 26, 2015, the Honorable Leland S. McGee, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On June 29, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner has exhausted his 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits. See Exhibit R-9. The record further indicates that Petitioner applied for an extension of EA benefits under the extreme hardship extension because his unemployment benefits expired, and was, subsequently, denied by the Agency because he did not meet the criteria for an extension of EA benefits under the extreme hardship provisions, as set out in N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). See Initial Decision at 4-5. Based on the facts presented, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not meet the criteria for an extreme hardship extension, and, accordingly, the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA benefits. *Id.* at 5.

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.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JUL - 7 2015 _____
Natasha Johnson
Director