State of New Jersey

ΓMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
CN 716

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 18983-16 D.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C111475 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for an extreme hardship extension of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 13, 2017, the Honorable Dean J. Buono, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 27, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner has received 12 months of EA benefits, has not applied for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits, and does not have a MED-1 form. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 39-43. Additionally, the ALJ found, and Petitioner acknowledged, that she does not meet the necessary criteria for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner was ineligible for EA benefits because she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and does not qualify for an extension of said benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b). Accordingly the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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.

By way of comment, in the Initial Decision, it indicates that Petitioner testified that her children were removed from her custody on January 15, 2017. See Initial Decision at 2. Therefore, based upon this representation, the Agency is advised to reevaluate Petitioner's continued eligibility for Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, if appropriate. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(b) (stating that WFNJ/TANF is a component of WFNJ that provides assistance to adults with dependent children).

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

FEB 2 7 2017

Natasha Johnson
Director