



State of New Jersey

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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 6361-17 E.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C376859007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing.

On May 10, 2017, the Honorable Julio C. Morejon, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 11, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT WITH CONTINGENCIES the ALJ's Initial Decision, and REVERSE the Agency's determination.

Following an independent review of the record, and based on Petitioner's specific circumstances, I find that Petitioner is eligible for EA benefits in the form of shelter placement for a maximum period of 30 days, and that such shelter placement is to be in a location that is determined by the Agency to appropriately address Petitioner's safety issues, which may include placement in another county. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1). Additionally, Petitioner is advised that she must find permanent housing within that 30 day period, and that thereafter only security deposit and first month's rent will be provided by the Agency. Also, such permanent housing must be in a location that appropriately addresses the safety issues of Petitioner, and must be approved by the Agency. Further, I find that Petitioner's eligibility for the aforementioned EA benefits is contingent upon her receipt of WFNJ/TANF benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED WITH CONTINGENCIES and the Agency's action is REVERSED.

Officially approved final version.

JUN 05 2017

Natasha Johnson
Director

