State of New Jersey

TMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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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 2462-17 M.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C248757 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD 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, plus all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 23, 2017, the Honorable Julio C. Morejon, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On February 24, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming 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 ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

EA benefits are limited to 12 lifetime cumulative months, see N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), plus limited extensions for an "extreme hardship." See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). A Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") recipient may qualify for two six-month EA extensions if the Agency determines that a case of extreme hardship exists pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1). See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(d). Thus, the maximum amount of EA benefits that a WFNJ/TANF cash recipient may receive is 24 months.

Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner has received 24 months of EA benefits, which includes two six-month EA extreme hardship extensions. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1 and R-2. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and therefore, she is ineligible for additional EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d). Moreover, the ALJ found that Petitioner does not receive or have a pending application for Supplemental Security Income benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED, and the Agency's action is AFFIRMED.

MAR 0 2 2017 *Signed Copy on File*
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director