



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 04335-18 A.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C460107007 (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 contending that she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus two six-month extreme hardship extensions, and does not qualify for any additional extension of those benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 9, 2018, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On April 30, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner is a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") recipient and has received 27 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-4. The record further reflects that Petitioner has exhausted her 12-month lifetime of EA benefits, plus two six-month extreme hardship extensions, and does not qualify for any further extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d), and -6.9. Specifically, the ALJ found that Petitioner does not have a valid 12-month MED-1 form on file, that she did not have an Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits application or appeal pending, and that there was no pending eviction, and as such, that she is ineligible for any further extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3, P-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d), and -6.9. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-4. 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.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.



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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson

Director

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