



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 13063-18 A.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C129490003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits contending that he had exhausted his 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for an extreme hardship extension of such benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 27, 2018, the Honorable David M. Fritch, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 2, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner has received 12 months of EA benefits, and as such, Petitioner has exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a). The record further indicates that Petitioner is not a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient, does not have an SSI application pending approval or appeal, and does not have a 12-month MED-1 form. See Initial Decision at 2, 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(2). Based on the foregoing, as well as the testimony and documentation presented, the ALJ found that Petitioner does not qualify for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b). On that basis, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b). 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 his 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. OCT 15 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

