



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

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 10424-18 C.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C100189011 (MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS..)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits contending that she has 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 July 26, 2018, the Honorable Susan L. Ogiati, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On July 27, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here the record indicates that Petitioner, a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient, had received a cumulative total of 27 months of EA benefits as of September 2013. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2 at 2-5. As such, the ALJ found that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 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.

AUG - 2 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

