



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director
Tel: (609) 588-2000

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 01010-18 G.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C194406009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits contending that she had sufficient income to pay her housing costs. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 23, 2018, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On that same day, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner's monthly rent is \$1,350. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner shares her apartment with her minor child and a roommate, whose income was included by the Agency in determining Petitioner's eligibility for EA benefits. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibits R-1, R-3. On January 3, 2018, the Agency denied Petitioner's EA benefits application, concluding that, together with the roommate's income, Petitioner had sufficient income to pay the rent. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Although the Agency admitted confusion in the past surrounding whether the roommate's income should be included in determining Petitioner's eligibility for benefits, the ALJ found that the roommate's income had properly included by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3-4. The ALJ therefore concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a), (b), and (c). 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.

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

Officially approved final version.

JAN 31 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

