



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 15977-17 J.I.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C086228003 (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 she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and does not qualify for a further extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 4, 2017, the Honorable Elaine B. Frick, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 18, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner, a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits recipient, had received 15 months of EA benefits as of October 2017. See Initial Decision at 2, 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 9-13. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and does not otherwise qualify for an extreme hardship extension of EA, and therefore, the Agency's termination of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d). 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 and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

By way of comment, the transmittal in this matter reflects an additional contested issue pertaining to the sanctioning of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits. However, the ALJ did not address this issue in the Initial Decision. Therefore, if Petitioner still has an issue concerning a sanctioning of her WFNJ/TANF benefits, she may request another fair hearing on that issue alone.

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

Officially approved final version.

JAN 30 2018

Natasha Johnson  
Director

