



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 00627-18 J.T.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C218290009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits contending that she does not have a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits application or appeal pending, and that she is not a sole caretaker of a severely disabled or seriously ill dependent child. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 6, 2018, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 28, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner, an employable Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipient, has exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, and does not qualify for any further extension of those benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Specifically, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not have a current 12-month MED-1, that she did not have an SSI application or appeal pending, and that she is not the sole caretaker of a severely disabled or seriously ill dependent child, and as such, she did not qualify for an extension of EA benefits. Id. at 3-4; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3, 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 4; see also Exhibit R-1. 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.

APR 30 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

