



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 05656-18 T.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C400041004 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because Petitioner had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions, and did not qualify for any further EA extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 26, 2018, the Honorable Susan L. Olgiati, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On April 27, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner applied for EA benefits on April 5, 2018, and was denied by the Agency on April 9, 2018, on the grounds that he had exhausted his lifetime limits of said benefits, plus all available extensions. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7-13. The ALJ found, and Petitioner did not dispute, that he has received 51 months of EA benefits, including the 12-month lifetime limit, plus two extreme hardship extensions. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 22-30, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). The ALJ further noted that Petitioner currently receives Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), and therefore is not eligible for the recently promulgated Provisional Housing-Awaiting SSI/Social Security Disability Insurance Eligibility ("PHASE") Pilot program. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 19, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.9(a)(1). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7-13, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c), -6.9. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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.

MAY 01 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

