



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Acting Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 07716-21 W.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C089581018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD 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 his income exceeds his shelter costs, and that he caused his own homelessness by failing to comply with Section 8 housing. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 14, 2021, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 22, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner currently receives \$852.27 in monthly Supplemental Security Income benefits, and the record reflects that his monthly rent was \$750. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-9, and "New Apartment Information" form. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's income exceeds his monthly rental costs, and as such, he is ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a)(1). Of note, the record reflects that Petitioner admitted that he is working, and that he has failed to report such income to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Further, the ALJ found that Petitioner had caused his own homelessness by rescinding his Section 8 housing voucher, and on that basis, also concluded that Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-3. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), 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.

OCT 21 2021

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

