



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 13613-24 D.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C112215011 (MERCER 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 she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for any further extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 4, 2024, the Honorable Mary Ann Bogan, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 7, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner had received 24 months of EA benefits, which included two six-month extreme hardship extensions, and as such, had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extreme hardship extensions. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d). The ALJ found that Petitioner did not qualify for any further extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4. Specifically, the record reflects that Petitioner did not provide the Agency with a MED-1 form, as requested by the Agency, indicating a 12-month disability, required in this case to meet the criteria for an extension of EA benefits under the Emergency Assistance for Special Groups ("EASG") pilot program. Id. at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-7, R-8, and the State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S866, P.L. 2018, c. 164, effective December 20, 2018 ("S866"), and the State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S3960, P.L. 2023, c. 198, effective December 21, 2023 ("S3960") now codified at N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3), also known as EASG (extending EA benefits eligibility for certain categories of individuals, including, but not limited to Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") benefits recipients who are permanently disabled, as documented by a twelve-month MED-1 Form, and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipients), and Division of Family Development Instruction ("DFDI") No. 24-03-01. Accordingly, 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-5. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

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. October 17, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

