



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 **06649-24 D.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C264633004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 22, 2024, the Honorable Dean J. Buono, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 23, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, that Petitioner had received 13 months of EA benefits, and as such, had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, and further, found that Petitioner did not qualify for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6-13, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d). Specifically, the ALJ found that Petitioner had not demonstrated that an extreme hardship existed, nor did he have a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits application pending, nor a MED-1 form indicating a 12-month disability, both required elements, in the case at hand, for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1), (2). Of note, the record also reflects that Petitioner does not meet the criteria for an extension of EA benefits under the Emergency Assistance for Special Groups ("EASG") pilot program. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits R-4, R-5, 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 WFNJ recipients who are permanently disabled, as documented by a twelve-month MED-1 Form, and SSI benefits recipients), and Division of Family Development Instruction ("DFDI") No. 24-03-01. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits, and consequent termination of Petitioner's EA benefits were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-5, 7-13, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b)(1), (2). 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 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 30, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

