



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

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 13393-24 K.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C276934009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she failed to provide all required documentation needed to determine EA benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 30, 2024, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. Also on September 30, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for EA benefits and thereafter was sent a letter from the Agency requesting documentation necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits which needed to be received within thirty days, specifically, a letter from Petitioner's sister concerning reasons for ejection from her home, utility statements, and a copy of her sister's lease. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8. When the requested information was not returned by the due date, the Agency denied Petitioner's EA benefits application on September 17, 2024. See Exhibit R-1 at 1-4. Petitioner testified that the documentation had previously been submitted when she applied for EA benefits in 2022 and 2023, but she was unable to produce the documentation requested, and testified that she failed to respond to the Agency's August request for further information. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8. Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -6.3(a)(1)(ii). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for EA benefits should she continue to need EA benefits and is otherwise eligible for same in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1 et seq, but is reminded that she must provide all required documentation needed to determine eligibility for EA benefits.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.



Officially approved final version.      October 03, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

