



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
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 **14825-24 L.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C090777018 (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 she was not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") or Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), benefits recipient, and therefore ineligible for EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 12, 2024, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On November 18, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

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 hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

Only WFNJ cash assistance recipients and SSI benefits recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Here, the record reflects that, as of November 1, 2024, Petitioner's SSI benefits had been terminated as a result of her receipt of Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, see also Exhibit R-1 at 4. Therefore, as Petitioner was no longer an SSI benefits recipient, she was no longer eligible for EA benefits, and consequently, the Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Based on the foregoing and applicable EA benefits regulation, 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 N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I agree.

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.

December 05, 2024

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

