



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 **06799-24 S.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C222865020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she failed to provide all required documentation to the Agency needed to determine her eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 23, 2024, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 24, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, providing a detailed and well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-7. Specifically, although Petitioner claimed that she had provided the Agency with the required documentation, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner had failed to provide all the required documents, and the documents that she did provide were insufficient for the Agency to determine her EA benefits eligibility. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, P-4, R-2 at 6-12, 20. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's March 1, 2024, application for EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 7-9; see also Exhibits R-1 at 2-6, R-2 at 1, 5, 13-19, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a)(5), (d). 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 may reapply for EA benefits, and is advised that her eligibility for EA benefits is contingent upon her providing all required, sufficient documentation to the Agency. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a) -2.2(a)(5), (d). The Agency is instructed to assist Petitioner with acquiring such documentation, as appropriate.

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

Officially approved final version. June 04, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

