



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 **16074-24 S.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C196050009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she moved to New Jersey ("NJ") without a plan for self-sufficiency, and failed to establish that she had an emergent situation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 18, 2024, the Honorable Julio C. Morejon, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on November 18, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Based on Petitioner's credible testimony, her particular circumstances, and the Agency's failure to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that Petitioner was ineligible for EA benefits on the bases stated in its adverse action notice, I concur with the ALJ's conclusion that Petitioner is eligible for EA benefits, and as such, the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner must be reversed. See Initial Decision at 2-7; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c).

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 advised that the Agency shall determine the most appropriate form of EA benefits required to address her housing needs, which may include shelter placement. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1).

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

Officially approved final version. November 21, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

