



*State of New Jersey*

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

CAROLE JOHNSON  
*Commissioner*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON  
*Director*

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 09852-18 Q.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S793098009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits contending that she failed to provide necessary documentation to complete her application. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 17, 2018, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On July 18, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on September 12, 2017, Petitioner, a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance benefits recipient, applied for, and was approved for immediate need shelter placement. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.3. The Agency requested additional documents to process Petitioner's application for EA benefits, including an updated Supplemental Security Income benefits application, and evidence regarding imminent homelessness. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-5. Petitioner did not supply the requested information, and her application for EA benefits was denied by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 1-2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). The ALJ found that Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with sufficient documentation required to determine her eligibility for EA benefits, and failed to appear at the Agency to obtain the immediate need shelter placement vouchers, and therefore, concluded that the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the 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, 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.

JUL 26 2018

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Natasha Johnson  
Director

