



State of New Jersey

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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 17043-17 K.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C100602008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. 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 he had sufficient income to pay his share of the housing expenses. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. The matter was initially scheduled for a hearing on December 15, 2017, but was adjourned because Petitioner wanted to hire private counsel. On January 19, 2018, the Honorable Jeffrey R. Wilson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 7, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner receives monthly Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits in the amount of \$776.25. See Initial Decision at 2; see also R-1 at 2, 7, and 15. Petitioner's monthly share of housing expenses, consisting of rent and utilities, is \$536.50. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2, and 7. Petitioner's mother, with whom he shares housing, testified that there is no actual or imminent eviction or danger of losing housing. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). The ALJ found that Petitioner's monthly income exceeds his monthly housing expenses. See Initial Decision at 3; See also Exhibit R-1 at 2, and 7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a)(1). The ALJ also found that Petitioner has no emergent housing need. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA/TRA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1. 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.

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

MAR 13 2018

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director



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