



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 17965-18 A.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C158231009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extreme hardship extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits, contending that she did not meet the criteria for such extension. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for January 15, 2019, but was adjourned at the request of Petitioner. On January 29, 2019, the Honorable Irene Jones, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record closed on that same date. On March 5, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby MODIFY the ALJ's Initial Decision, and REVERSE the Agency's determination, as outlined below.

Here, based on Petitioner's particular circumstances, the ALJ reversed the Agency's determination, finding Petitioner eligible for a second six-month extreme hardship extension of EA benefits, and ordering the Agency to provide Petitioner with six months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b), (d). While I agree with the ALJ's determination that Petitioner is eligible for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits, I find that she is only eligible for up to six months of EA benefits, provided she continues to remain eligible for same. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1 et seq. The Initial Decision is modified to reflect this finding.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby MODIFIED, and the Agency's action is REVERSED, as discussed above.



APR 11 2019

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson

Director



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