



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 08199-19 E.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C118538008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she had exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of said benefits and did not qualify for an extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 12, 2019, the Honorable Catherine A. Tuohy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On July 26, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that, as of the date of the hearing, Petitioner had received 13 months of EA benefits, and as such, she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 18, 20, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a). The record also reflects that Petitioner does not meet the criteria for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits as set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1). See Initial Decision at 2, 4-5; see also Exhibits P-1, R-1 at 11. Additionally, Petitioner does not have a 12-month MED-1 form or a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits application pending approval or appeal, and therefore, does not meet the criteria for an extreme hardship extension as set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). See Initial Decision at 2-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-3. 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.

Natasha Johnson
Director

AUG 23 2019

