



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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CAROLE JOHNSON
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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 01977-19 K.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C080765018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD 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 lifetime limit of EA benefits and did not qualify for an extension of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 19, 2019, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 28, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner had received 28 months of EA benefits as of the date of the fair hearing. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-37. Petitioner acknowledged that she had received 28 months of EA benefits, but did not realize that her shelter placement was counted towards her lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 2. It appears from the record that Petitioner is not a Supplemental Security Income benefits recipient, and that she does not have a MED-1 form indicating a 12-month disability. Ibid. Based on the testimony and documentary evidence, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits and does not qualify for any further extensions of said benefits. Id. at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. Ibid. 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

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