



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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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 16703-18 L.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C157062003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and its denial of an extension of EA benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she had exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit for such benefits, and denied Petitioner an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits, contending that she did not meet the criteria for same. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 7, 2019, the Honorable David M. Fritch, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 9, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had received 14 months of EA benefits as of January 2019, and as such, that she has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, 4; see also Exhibit R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a). The ALJ also found that Petitioner did not meet the extreme hardship extension criteria set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1), and that she did not meet the extreme hardship criteria set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(2), as she did not have a MED-1 form and a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") application or appeal pending. See Initial Decision at 2-4. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and its denial of an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits to Petitioner, were proper and must stand. *Id.* at 4; see also Exhibit R-2. 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, Petitioner may reapply for EA benefits once she has applied for SSI benefits and has obtained a MED-1 form. Further, 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, and the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities. See Initial Decision at 3, n.1.

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



Officially approved final version.

FEB 14 2019

Natasha Johnson

Director

