



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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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 02515-19 L.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S725995009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that he had exhausted his 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 April 15, 2019, the Honorable Andrew Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open for Petitioner to submit a MED-1 form, and upon such submission, the record then closed on April 16, 2019.

On May 9, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner has received 12 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ also found that Petitioner does not have a MED-1 form indicating a 12-month disability, and does not have a Supplemental Security Income benefits application pending approval or appeal. *Ibid.*; see also "MED-1 Form" dated March 20, 2019. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner has exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits and does not qualify for an extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c), and State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S866, P.L. 2018, c. 164, effective December 20, 2018. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; 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.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with his 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.

JUN 21 2019

Natasha Johnson
Director



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