



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 08550-19 M.T.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C238562004 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's EA benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"), contending that her total cost of housing is over the Fair Market Rent ("FMR") for Camden County. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 27, 2019, the Honorable John S. Kennedy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 28, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner's monthly rent is \$990, plus gas bill, a \$5.50 monthly fee for trash removal, a \$6.75 monthly "service charge," and mandatory renter's liability insurance. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8-10, 18. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's total housing costs exceed the FMR in Camden County for a one-bedroom apartment, and as such, Petitioner is ineligible for EA/TRA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 15, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(7)(i)(1). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA/TRA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-5. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of DFD, 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, should Petitioner's circumstances change, such as an eviction from her current apartment, or the securing of housing which is within the FMR for Camden County, she may reapply for EA benefits. Petitioner is advised, however, that the Agency shall determine the most appropriate form of EA benefits required to address her housing needs, which may include shelter placement. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1).

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



Officially approved final version.

JUL - 9 2019

Natasha Johnson
Director

