



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 15064-19 N.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C431196004 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that her monthly total cost of housing exceeded 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 October 31, 2019, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on October 31, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner's rent is \$1,325 per month, and her utility costs are approximately \$80 per month. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8-15. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner's monthly housing costs exceed the FMR of \$1,226 for a two-bedroom apartment in Camden County, and as such, she is ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits P-1 at 2, R-1 at 17, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(7)(i)(1). Moreover, the ALJ also found that Petitioner was no longer a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits recipient, and on that basis, she is also ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-7. 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.

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



Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

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