



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

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 00848-20 K.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C207769009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extreme hardship extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits, contending that he failed to provide documentation required to determine eligibility for said extension. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for February 13, 2020, but was adjourned. On February 27, 2020, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 31, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's conclusion that the Agency's denial of an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a), -6.3, -6.4(a), (b), (d). Moreover, the record indicates that Petitioner's rent is current. See Initial Decision at 3-4. Additionally, the record indicates that Petitioner has been residing in Essex County since May 2019, but has continued to receive EA benefits from Hudson County where he had formerly resided. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also "Check History." The record further indicates that Petitioner has had difficulty with having his EA benefits case transferred from Hudson County to Essex County. See Initial Decision at 3-4. The ALJ in this matter directed the Hudson County fair hearing representative to follow-up with Essex County to ensure the proper transfer of Petitioner's case. *Id.* at 4. I agree, and direct the Agency to ensure expeditious transfer Petitioner's EA benefits case to Essex County, if it has not already done so, and to assist Petitioner with his reapplication process in that County, on an expedited basis. Further, Petitioner is advised that should Essex County deny him EA benefits, he may request another fair hearing on that denial.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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.

APR 16 2020

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

