



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
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 **02941-25 A.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C091355003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extreme hardship extensions, and did not qualify for an extension of EA benefits pursuant to the Emergency Assistance for Special Groups ("EASG") pilot. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 14, 2025, the Honorable Michael R. Stanzione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 18, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here the ALJ found, the record substantiates, and Petitioner did not dispute, that she has received 55 months of EA benefits, and as such, she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-C, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (d), N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(4) ("7-year disregard"). Petitioner also acknowledged that she had not provided the Agency with a current 12-month Med-1 form, a requirement for an EASG extension of EA benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-A, R-B, and N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3), also known as EASG, which extends EA benefits eligibility for certain categories of individuals, including, but not limited to WFNJ recipients who are permanently disabled, as documented by a 12-month MED-1 form. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibits R-D, R-E. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development (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, 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.

By way of further comment, Petitioner is advised that if she can provide the Agency with a Med-1 form indicating a 12-month disability, she may reapply for EA benefits under the EASG pilot. See N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3).

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



Officially approved final version. February 25, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

