



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 18281-25 D.Y.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C249737020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of storage fees. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that the storage facility would not provide the necessary documentation in order to process a vendor payment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 24, 2025 the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, and took testimony. No documents were admitted into evidence.

On October 24, 2025 the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner was provided an EA shelter placement which necessitated him to put his items in storage. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency representative testified that she contacted the storage facility on at least six occasions, but was unsuccessful in obtaining a signed I-9, a tax form necessary for the Agency to process payments to vendors who have not been previously approved by the Agency. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that the Agency had met its burden of proof with respect to the denial of EA benefits, in the form of storage fees, and further found that the issue was now moot as the items contained within the storage unit had been previously auctioned off by the storage facility ten days prior to the date of the fair hearing. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that that Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. Id. at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). I agree.

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. October 30, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

