



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 **04592-25 I.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C093300018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for any further extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 1, 2025, the Honorable Advia Knight Foster, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed. On April 11, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner has received his lifetime limit of EA benefits, as well as a six-month hardship extension, and currently does not qualify for any further extension of any kind. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibits R-1, R-3, R-4 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). On February 13, 2023, Petitioner applied for EA benefits, at which time he was supplied with a MED-1 form after he informed the Agency that he was unemployable due to a medical condition. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-4. From November 2023, through April, 2025, Petitioner has received eighteen months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3. Petitioner has been provided a MED-1 form on several occasions, none of which have been completed and submitted by his physician. See Initial Decision at 3. Further, Petitioner failed to comply with his EA service plan ("SP"), as he did not attend the required mental health examination, nor comply with the terms of his SP wherein, he agreed to submit housing searches and apply for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"). Ibid. Of note, the record also reflects that, at the time of the EA termination in this matter, Petitioner did not apply for an extension of EA benefits under the Emergency Assistance for Special Groups ("EASG") pilot program, as he had not submitted a completed MED-1 form, needed to establish permanent disability. See Initial Decision at 4; see also the State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S3960, P.L. 2023, c. 198, effective December 21, 2018 ("S3960"), now codified at N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3), also known as EASG (extending EA benefits eligibility for certain categories of individuals, including, but not limited to WFNJ recipients who are permanently disabled, as documented by a twelve-month MED-1 Form, and Supplemental Security Income benefits recipients), and Division of Family Development Instruction ("DFDI") No. 24-03-01. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand, and that he is ineligible for an extension of EA benefits under the EASG pilot program. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)-(f), -6.6. I agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received from Petitioner on April 24, 2025.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

By way of further comment, should Petitioner obtain a current, complete MED-1 form, he is without prejudice to apply for an extension of EA benefits.

Also, by way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with his current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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

Officially approved final version. May 16, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

