



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 17118-24 J.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C173857004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she failed to provide all required documentation needed to determine EA benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 24, 2025 the Honorable Elaine B. Frick, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On February 26, 2025 the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for EA benefits on September 19, 2024, and advised that she would have to leave her current residence by October 1, 2024, however, she did not provide an explanation, at the time of her application, as to why she needed to vacate her residence by that date. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3. Petitioner further noted, at the time of her application, that she was unable to stay at her daughter's residence, but would use her address for correspondence. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-5. On September 19, 2024, Petitioner was sent a letter from the Agency requesting documentation necessary to determine eligibility for EA benefits which needed to be received by October 11, 2024, specifically, documentation verifying when and why she must vacate her current residence, a letter from her daughter confirming why she could not stay at her residence, her most recent cash app and bank statements, and verification as to how she spent her Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits for the three prior months. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-5. Petitioner did submit documentation to the Agency to satisfy the request for her financial information, however, she failed to submit current documentation regarding her living circumstances and submitted outdated and insufficient information that did not satisfy the requests made by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6-9. When all of the requested information was not returned by the due date, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA benefits on October 25, 2024. See Exhibit R-1 at 19-22. Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also Exhibit R-1 at 19-22, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -6.3(a)(1)(ii). 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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for EA benefits, should she continue to need EA benefits and is otherwise eligible for same in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1 et seq, but is reminded that she must provide all required documentation needed to determine eligibility for EA benefits.



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

Officially approved final version. April 17, 2025

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

