



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 **17148-24 L.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S630233012 (MIDDLESEX 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 failed to provide requested documents required to determine EA benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A telephonic hearing was initially scheduled for December 12, 2024, however negotiations between the parties on a possible resolution of this matter ran until 4 p.m. that day, without resolution. Due to the lateness of the hour, the hearing was carried to the following morning. On December 13, 2024, the Honorable Robert D. Herman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 16, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination, and remanding the matter back to the Agency. Here, the ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, providing a detailed and well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-9. Specifically, the ALJ found that Petitioner had provided all documentation requested pursuant to the Agency's October 31, 2024, EA Verification List, in a timely manner, and in accordance with the November 22, 2024, due date for submission. See Initial Decision at 3-6; see also Exhibits P-1, R-3, R-6, R-10 through R-16. Further, the ALJ found that the Agency should now have sufficient documentation needed to process Petitioner's EA benefits application for eligibility. See Initial Decision at 7-8; see also Exhibit R-1. Additionally, the record reflects that Petitioner is imminently homeless. Id. at 5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ reversed the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner, and remanded the matter to the Agency to process Petitioner's October 23, 2024, EA benefits application, which I find should include her Emergency Assistance for Special Groups ("EASG") application, on an expedited basis. See Initial Decision at 3, 8-9; see also Exhibits R-1, R-5, R-7, R-8, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -6.1 et seq., and N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3). 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, the Agency's determination is REVERSED, and the matter REMANDED to the Agency, as outlined above.



Officially approved final version. January 03, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

