



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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*Commissioner*

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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 **02149-25 L.T.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C475154004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the denial of an extension of EA benefits pursuant to the Emergency Assistance for Specific Groups ("EASG") program, contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for an EASG extension of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 5, 2025, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. Also on February 5, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on February 11, 2025.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby MODIFY the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

State of New Jersey Senate Bill, No. S866, P.L. 2018, c. 164, effective December 20, 2018 ("S866"), now codified at N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3), also known as Emergency Assistance for Specific Groups ("EASG"), and recently extended pursuant to State of New Jersey Assembly Bill, No. 5549, extends EA benefits eligibility for certain categories of individuals, including, but not limited to WFNJ recipients who are permanently disabled, as documented by a twelve (12) month MED-1 Form, and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipients. See DFD Instruction ("DFDI") No. 25-02-01.

Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner, a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance benefits recipient, had received 27 months of EA benefits, and as such, had exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, and that no further extensions were available to her. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 15-19, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). Additionally, the ALJ found that Petitioner had not provided the Agency with a MED-1 form indicating a 12-month disability, required in the case at hand, for an extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, and its denial of an extension of EA benefits to Petitioner, were proper and must stand. *Id.* at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-8. I agree.

However, in the initial Decision, the ALJ did not make clear that Petitioner had applied for an EASG extension of EA benefits, and was denied said extension for failure to provide the Agency with a 12-month MED-1 form, a requirement in this case for EASG eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2-4. Therefore, as clarification, I specifically find, and the record also reflects, that Petitioner does not meet the criteria for an EASG extension of EA benefits, as she had not provided the



Agency with a valid 12-month MED-1 form, required in this case, for EASG eligibility. See N.J.S.A. 44:10-51(a)(3). On that basis, I concur with the ALJ's conclusion that the Agency's denial of an extension of EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4. The Initial Decision is modified to reflect this clarification.

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. Petitioner is advised that I am not permitted to consider documents as evidence that were not submitted at the hearing for consideration by the ALJ. See N.J.A.C. 1:1-18.4(c) (stating that "[e]vidence not presented at the hearing shall not be submitted as part of an exception, nor shall it be incorporated or referred to within exceptions"). Of note, however, the MED-1 form provided by Petitioner in her Exceptions is not a MED-1 form which indicates a 12-month disability, as required for EASG eligibility. Additionally, it is unclear if Petitioner provided a copy of her Exceptions, with the attached MED-1 form, to the Agency, as required. See N.J.A.C. 1:1-18.4(a) and N.J.A.C. 1:10-18.2.

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.

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

Officially approved final version. February 13, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

