



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 13547-25 S.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C214277009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for a further extension of EA benefits at the present time. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 1, 2025 the Honorable Joann Lasala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed. Also on October 1, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received from Petitioner on October 14, 2025.

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, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED, based on the discussion below.

Under the Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") regulations, EA benefits are limited to 12 cumulative months during the lifetime of a case, plus limited extensions. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a) and -6.4(b). A WFNJ/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") recipient may qualify for up to an additional six months of EA benefits when an "extreme hardship" exists pursuant to the criteria set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1). See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(c). Thus, the maximum amount of EA benefits that a WFNJ/GA benefits recipient may receive is 18 months.

Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner, a WFNJ/GA benefits recipient, has received her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and currently does not qualify for any further EA extension of any kind. See Initial Decision at 2-3. The ALJ found that, at the time of the hearing, Petitioner has already received 18 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3. I agree, and further note that, having received 18 months of EA benefits, Petitioner has exhausted her 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus the available six-month hardship extension. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(c).

By way of comment, I have reviewed the Exceptions submitted by Petitioner, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

By way of further 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, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. November 07, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

