



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 **05850-25 S.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S660663012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and the denial of an extension of EA benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and denied Petitioner an EA extension as she 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 June 13, 2025, the Honorable Nicole T. Minutoli, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed.

On June 25, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner has received her lifetime limit of EA benefits, and currently does not qualify for any further extension of any kind. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-7, R-8, R-9. Petitioner did submit a Hardship Extension application, however, upon review, the Agency determined that she did not meet the criteria for a hardship extension of EA benefits. *Ibid.*; 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, and the denial of a hardship extension of EA benefits, were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-7, R-8, R-9. 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 further 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 ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version. July 18, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

