



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR
Commissioner

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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 **08582-26 C.E.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C244428013 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, contending that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for any 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 30, 2026, the Honorable Claudia L. Marchese, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed. On July 21, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner, a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits recipient, has received his 12-month lifetime limit of EA benefits, and that he currently does not qualify for any further extension of any kind. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). Petitioner did submit an EA hardship application, as well as a MED-1 form, however, upon review, the Agency denied the MED-1 form, as Petitioner had not submitted a completed MED-1 form indicating that he could not work for one-year, which is needed to establish permanent disability. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. Ibid. 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, should Petitioner's circumstances change, and he is able to present a 12-month MED-1 to the Agency, he is without prejudice to reapply for EA benefits.

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.



Officially approved final version. August 26, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

