



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 **05703-26 C.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C099763018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD 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 he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, and did not qualify for any extension of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 26, 2026, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents, and the record was closed on that date. June 10, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

This office has been advised that the Agency is rescinding the denial of an EA benefits extension to Petitioner, as, at the time of termination Petitioner's EA benefits, the Agency failed to consider Petitioner's eligibility for Emergency Assistance for Specific Groups ("EASG"), for which he has now been found eligible. See 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), and extended pursuant to State of New Jersey Assembly Bill, No. 5549, which provides EA benefits eligibility for certain categories of individuals. See DFD Instruction ("DFDI") No. 25-02-01. Therefore, as Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I hereby find that this matter has now been rendered moot, and therefore, DISMISS Petitioner's appeal.

Accordingly, Petitioner's appeal now being deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version. July 16, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

