



State of New Jersey

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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 **05767-26 C.W.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C735921007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for EA benefits, contending that his income exceeds his shelter costs. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 30, 2026, the Honorable Gerard Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 13, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner currently receives \$185 in monthly Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, and the record reflects that his monthly rent, in Section 8 housing, ranged from \$46 during 2024 to \$70 most recently. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Petitioner has failed to pay his rental contribution for a significant portion of time, and his rental arrears now total \$2,218, which led him to apply for EA benefits on February 19, 2026. See Initial Decision at 3. Upon review of Petitioner's EA benefits application, the Agency denied such benefits, citing that Petitioner had the financial and realistic capacity to prevent an emergent housing situation. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-7 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3)(v). Moreover, the ALJ noted that Petitioner in this matter failed to produce any evidence that he is being evicted from housing. See Initial Decision at 3; N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(1)(ii) (stating that documentation must be presented to the Agency demonstrating that an eviction is pending or has occurred). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's income exceeds his monthly rental costs, and as such, he is ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a)(1). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-7. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), 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.

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



Officially approved final version. July 01, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

