



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 **10430-26 T.P.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C131739008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's EA benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"), contending that her housing cost exceeded the Fair Market Rent ("FMR") for Gloucester County. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. The hearing in this matter was initially scheduled for August 7, 2026, however, was expedited to be heard July 22, 2026, following Petitioner's receipt of a formal eviction notice which included an eviction date of August 6, 2026. On July 22, 2026, the Honorable Tama B. Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On July 23, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that at the time of Petitioner's application for EA benefits, her monthly rent was \$1,744, plus monthly utilities estimated to be \$425 average per month, which put Petitioner's total monthly rent over the FMR of \$1,810.00 in Gloucester County for a two-bedroom housing unit, and as such, she is ineligible for EA/TRA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(7)(i)(1). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ determined that Petitioner is ineligible for EA/TRA benefits and as such, the Agency's denial of EA/TRA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. 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, such as securing housing which is within the FMR for Gloucester County, she may reapply for EA benefits.

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



Officially approved final version. August 13, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

