

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Chris Christie Governor

Kim Guadagno

Division of Family Development P.O. Box 716 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

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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 17626-15 H.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C089343 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of her Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because it determined that she had sufficient income to pay her rent. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 17, 2015, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On December 18, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner receives \$764 per month in Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The record also shows that Petitioner's monthly rental cost is \$728. Ibid. Additionally, the record shows that Petitioner testified that her monthly rental cost had increased, but she provided no proof to support her claim. Ibid. The ALJ found that Petitioner's income exceeded her shelter costs. Id. at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a)(1).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision and following an independent

Page 2

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 in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

DEC 2 8 2015

Natasha Johnson Director