

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Chris Christie Governor

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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 7702-15 I.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C190218 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner's application because she is under a sanction for non-compliance with the Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") work activity requirement. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 1, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On June 2, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

At the hearing, the ALJ found that Petitioner has an existing sanction resulting from her failure to comply with the WFNJ/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") work requirement without good cause. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(b). Further, Petitioner admitted to the ALJ that she is currently under a sanction. See Initial Decision at 3. Therefore, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the denial of Petitioner's EA/TRA application was appropriate and that the Agency's determination should be affirmed. Ibid.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record and the ALJ's Initial Decision and, having made an independent evaluation of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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By way of comment, Petitioner must become compliant with the WFNJ work requirement set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.1(a) before she can be eligible for WFNJ/TANF and EA/TRA benefits.

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

JUN 1 2 2015

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson Director