



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 15795-15 M.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA310787 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because he had received his lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 8, 2015, the Honorable Sara G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 9, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ notes that although Petitioner's fiancé is not a party in this appeal, she is a co-applicant for EA benefits and is part of Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/General Assistance household. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner's household was not eligible for an extension of EA benefits under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot because Petitioner had not provided proof of an SSI application or appeal, or a MED-1 form substantiating at least 12 months of disability, both necessary to establish HAP eligibility. *Id.* at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a)(1)(i). Moreover, the HAP program expired on July 2, 2015, and Petitioner did not complete the application for HAP until September 14, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2, 4; see also Division Family Development ("DFD") Instruction 15-07-02. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly denied EA benefits to both Petitioner and his fiancé. See Initial Decision at 4.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed on October 13, 2015.

As the Director of the 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 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

OCT 27 2019

Natasha Johnson

Director