



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 12935-15 C.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C093731 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits under the former Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot and former Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") pilot. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits contending that she did not meet any of the eligibility requirements for an extension of EA benefits under HAP or HHE. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 5, 2016, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 7, 2016, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner has received 24 months of EA benefits. See Exhibit R-1 at 2. The record also shows that Petitioner applied for an extension of EA benefits under HAP and HHE, on April 20, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner had not applied for Supplemental Security Income benefits and did not have a MED-1 form. *Ibid.* Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not qualify for an extension of EA benefits under the now expired HAP pilot. *Id.* at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a)(1)(i). Additionally, the ALJ found that Petitioner incurred a sanction within the year prior to applying for HHE, and therefore, did not qualify for an extension of EA benefits under the now expired HHE pilot. *Id.* at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.9(c)(1).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the 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 in this matter.

By way of comment, the HAP and HHE pilot programs expired on July 2, 2015, and no new applications for HAP or HHE are being accepted after July 6, 2015. See DFD Instruction No. 15-07-02.

By way of further comment, the fair hearing data sheet in this matter reveals additional transmitted issues regarding the termination of Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, and a reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. However, neither issue was addressed at the hearing. Therefore, if Petitioner still has an issue concerning her WFNJ/TANF and/or SNAP benefits, she may request another fair hearing on those issues alone.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JAN 21 2016

Natasha Johnson
Director