



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 16154-15 M.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C038888 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits contending that she had exhausted her 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 December 29, 2015, the Honorable Laura Sanders, Acting Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge ("CALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On January 4, 2016, the CALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the CALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I ADOPT the CALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, on other grounds, as discussed below.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a)(1), EA shall be made available "[w]hen shelter costs equal or exceed total recorded income to the [Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ")] or [Supplemental Security Income ("SSI")] assistance unit and the recipient is unable to document other sources of income, for example, loans from relatives, which enable the individual or family to meet monthly housing/living expenses"

Page 2

Here, the CALJ found that Petitioner's monthly income is \$2,033. See Initial Decision at 5. The record also shows that Petitioner's monthly rent is \$757, and her monthly utilities are \$92. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the CALJ found, and I concur, that Petitioner is not eligible for EA benefits. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a)(1). Therefore, I find that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she has sufficient income to pay her rent.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is AFFIRMED, on other grounds, as discussed above.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JAN 20 2016

Natasha Johnson
Director