



State of New Jersey

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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 7230-17 M.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C183984016 (PASSAIC 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 been residing in the shelter for more than ninety (90) days. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 25, 2017, the Honorable Julio C. Morejon, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 26, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner took reasonable steps to secure permanent housing, that her state of homelessness was due to circumstances beyond her control, and that the Agency assist Petitioner in finding suitable permanent housing. See Initial Decision at 4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of EA benefits was improper and should be reversed. See id. at 4-5. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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 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 REVERSED.

JUN 09 2017

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

