



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 17482-18 G.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C304256007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits and did not qualify for an extreme hardship extension of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 10, 2018, the Honorable Susana E. Guerrero, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 11, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects, and Petitioner acknowledged, that he has received 21 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10-14. The ALJ found that Petitioner had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, plus all available extreme hardship extensions and moreover, that he did not qualify for any further extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-6. 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.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with his current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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

Officially approved final version.

DEC 17 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

