



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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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 07982-18 K.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C189347009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of a furniture voucher. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits contending that she had already received three EA vouchers for furniture and therefore, had reached the maximum allowed for this form of EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was scheduled for June 7, 2018, but was adjourned until the next day. On June 8, 2018, the Honorable Julio C. Morejon, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on June 8, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner, a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits recipient, testified that she and her two children were displaced by a fire. See Initial Decision at 2. On May 29, 2018, Petitioner applied for an EA voucher for furniture, but was denied by the Agency, as she had previously received EA vouchers for furniture in 2011, 2016, and 2017, respectively, for a total of three. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. While Petitioner admitted that she had received three prior furniture vouchers from the Agency, she asserted that she had been unable to secure furniture from charity organizations. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1. Noting the applicable regulatory authority, which permits a maximum of three EA vouchers for furniture during a WFNJ benefits recipient's case, and based on the facts presented in the record, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits in the form of a furniture voucher was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.3(a)(4)(i). 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.

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

Officially approved final version.

JUN 20 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

