



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 02275-18 L.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C213357020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because he is not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") cash benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 22, 2018, the Honorable Susana E. Guerrero, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 27, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner is not receiving WFNJ cash benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Further, Petitioner concedes that he was denied WFNJ/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits in or around January 2018. Id. at 3. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits, and that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper, and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a) (stating that only WFNJ cash assistance recipients and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") recipients are eligible for EA benefits). 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 transmittal in this matter reflects an additional contested issue regarding a denial of WFNJ/GA benefits. The merits of issue were not addressed by the ALJ in the Initial Decision. Therefore, if Petitioner still has an issue pertaining to a denial of WFNJ/GA benefits, Petitioner may request another hearing on that issue alone.

By way of further 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.

MAR - 6 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

