



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Acting Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director
Tel: (609) 588-2000

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 06177-18 M.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S435827014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's EA benefits contending that she has 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 May 3, 2018, the Honorable Gail M. Cookson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On that same date, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record indicates that Petitioner is a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient, who had received 56 months of EA benefits as of September 2016. See Initial Decision at 2, 3; see also "Check History," and "SOLQ Response Screen." As such, Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA benefit, plus all available extensions, and does not qualify for an extension of EA benefits under the Provisional Housing-Awaiting Supplemental Security Income/Social Security/Disability Insurance Eligibility ("PHASE") Pilot Program as she already receives SSI benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.9. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied EA benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c), and -6.9. 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.

MAY 15 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

