



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
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Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

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 915-15 A.F.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA287134 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of his Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because he had exhausted his lifetime limit and any applicable extensions. Thereafter, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 9, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On February 23, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that the facts presented revealed that Petitioner had received twenty-one months of EA benefits, which is beyond the maximum permissible twelve months of EA benefits, plus one six-month extreme hardship extension. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (c). As such, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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 decision and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter. As noted by the ALJ, Petitioner is without prejudice to re-apply for a further extension of EA benefits under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot, provided he continues to need EA benefits and is otherwise eligible for EA in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a).

By way of comment, Petitioner is ineligible for an extension of EA benefits under the Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") pilot because he is a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance recipient, and only Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients are eligible for an extension of EA benefits under HHE.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is hereby AFFIRMED.

APR 14 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director