



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
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Chris Christie  
*Governor*

Kim Guadagno  
*Lt. Governor*

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 1944-15 A.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA528845 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits because he did not meet any of the criteria set out in the extreme hardship extension, the Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") pilot, or the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 12, 2015, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 17, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, which affirmed the Agency's denial of an extension of EA benefits. The record indicates that Petitioner has received 14 months of EA benefits, which is more than the 12-month lifetime limit set out in N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a). See Initial Decision at 4. Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner was not employed and did not have an offer of bona fide employment, one of the criteria required for extreme hardship eligibility. See *id.* at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(c). Further, the record does not indicate that Petitioner met any of the list of criteria, set out in N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(c), which would make him eligible for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. Additionally, the ALJ found that Petitioner was not eligible for an extension of EA benefits under HHE because he was not a Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipient, as required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.9. See Initial Decision at 3. Also, the ALJ found that Petitioner was not eligible for an extension of EA benefits under

HAP because he had not applied for Supplemental Security Income and did not have a Med-1 form substantiating at least 12-months of disability, as required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10. See id. at 4. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly denied Petitioner an extension of 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, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

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

*Signed Copy on File*

at DFD, BARA

**MAY 11 2015**

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Natasha Johnson  
Director