



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 4598-15 B.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA583832 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied WFNJ/GA benefits "due to failure of [WFNJ/GA] protocol," and EA benefits due to no proof of an emergency or eviction. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 7, 2015, the Honorable JoAnn LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held an emergent hearing, took testimony, admitted documents and issued an Initial Decision which reversed the Agency determination.

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 record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency determination.

I agree with the ALJ that "the record is devoid of any evidence to which the Agency can rely to deny Petitioner [WFNJ/GA and EA benefits]." Initial Decision at 3. Moreover, Petitioner has provided proof of imminent homelessness. See Exhibit P-3.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency determination is REVERSED.

APR 17 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director