



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 2234-15 C.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C101776 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her request for an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner an EA/TRA extension because she failed to comply with her EA service plan. Because Petitioner appealed, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 12, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 19, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision reversing the Agency determination.

Neither party filed exceptions to the Initial Decision.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the Initial Decision and, following an independent evaluation of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

At the hearing, the ALJ found that the Agency improperly denied Petitioner's EA/TRA application on the basis that she violated her service plan and further found that Petitioner's circumstances meet the criteria for an EA extreme hardship extension set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b). See Initial Decision at 4. Therefore, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Agency's denial of an EA/TRA extension to Petitioner should be reversed.

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

JUN 10 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director