



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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Division of Family Development
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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 5638-15 D.K.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA589415 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits because he abandoned permanent affordable housing without good cause and came to New Jersey without a plan for employment or housing. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 23, 2015, the Honorable Susan M. Scarola, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held an emergent hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and issued an Initial Decision which affirmed 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 AFFIRM the Agency determination.

The purpose of EA is to meet the needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work related activities without disruption in order to continue on the path to self-sufficiency. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). "Only [Work First New Jersey] recipients, including those determined eligible for WFNJ benefits based upon immediate need, and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") recipients, are eligible for [EA]." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a); -1.3. EA benefits shall not be provided for a period of six months when

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an adult EA applicant or recipient otherwise causes his or her own homelessness, without good cause. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3).

I concur with the ALJ that Petitioner is not eligible for WFNJ/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") because he has not yet completed the 28-day work requirement, and by extension is not eligible for EA benefits. N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2(f)(8); -6.2(a). Initial Decision at 2. In addition, I agree with the ALJ's finding that Petitioner left permanent affordable housing in Missouri and moved to New Jersey without a plan for housing or employment, thereby caused his own homelessness, and is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six months. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(3). Initial Decision at 2-4.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

MAY 12 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director