



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development  
P.O. Box 716  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie  
*Governor*

Kim Guadagno  
*Lt. Governor*

Elizabeth Connolly  
*Acting Commissioner*

Natasha Johnson  
*Director*  
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 9312-15 E.N.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C080381 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"), under the former Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits under HAP because it determined that he did not meet the eligibility criteria. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 29, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On October 7, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner had received 39 months of EA benefits, and had applied for a further extension of EA benefits under HAP. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 from 17-25. The record further reflects that the basis for Petitioner's claim of eligibility was that he is the sole caretaker of a severely disabled dependent child. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7. The ALJ found that Petitioner is not the designated caretaker for his child, as evidenced by the WFNJ-5S Confidential Medical Examining Physician's Report for Dependent Child or Dependent Adult ("MED-5") form. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 13. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits because he did not meet the eligibility criteria under HAP. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a)(1)(ii).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development ("DFD"), 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 final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

By way of comment, HAP and the Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") pilot programs expired on July 2, 2015, and no new applications for HAP or HHE are being accepted after July 6, 2015. See DFD Instruction No. 15-07-02.

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

*Signed Copy on File*

at DFD, BARA

**NOV 10 2015**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Natasha Johnson

Director