



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 4922-15 G.F.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C382691 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency's denial of Petitioner's EA benefits was due to administrative error. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 20, 2015, the Honorable Leland S. McGee, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On May 20, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that the Agency approved EA benefits in the form of temporary rental assistance, effective January 2015. See Initial Decision at 2. However, it appears that due to Agency oversight, the Agency failed to pay its portion of Petitioner's rent for the months of January, February, March, April and May of 2015. Ibid. Of note, the record shows that Petitioner paid her portion of the rent for the aforementioned months. Ibid. Further, the Agency confirmed at the hearing that Petitioner's rent payments should have been made, and that payment of the balance owed to her landlord would be made. Ibid. Accordingly, the ALJ reversed the Agency's denial of EA benefits.

No Exceptions to this 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 final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

JUN 03 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director