



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Director
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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 16754-15 G.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C157546 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for an extreme hardship extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner's application because she failed to provide requested employment information. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 4, 2015, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On November 4, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

In his Initial Decision, the ALJ noted that Petitioner has received 18 months of EA/TRA to date, six months of which represented an extreme hardship extension. See Initial Decision at 4. On July 22, 2015, Petitioner applied to the Agency for a second EA/TRA extreme hardship extension for three months of retroactive rent, stating that she was in danger of losing employment or a bona fide offer of employment. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On July 30, 2015, the Agency wrote to Petitioner requesting that she provide her paystubs by August 17, 2015. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner failed to respond to the Agency's request. *Ibid.* Therefore, the Agency denied Petitioner's application on August 17, 2015, for failing to provide paystubs. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. On September 8, 2015, Petitioner again applied for an extreme hardship extension of EA/TRA, which was also denied because Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with

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proof of employment. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that, because Petitioner failed to provide requested documentation, she does not qualify for an EA/TRA extreme hardship extension and, thus, the Agency's denial of same effective September 8, 2015, was proper and should be affirmed.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and, having made an independent evaluation of the record, I concur with the ALJ's Initial Decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

NOV 13 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director