



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 6365-15 G.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C063884 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of her application for an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner's application because she has exhausted her cumulative lifetime limit of EA and did not qualify under the Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") pilot program. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 29, 2015, the Honorable W. Todd Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony. On June 2, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on June 15, 2015. No exceptions were filed by the Agency.

Petitioner's family unit consists of herself and her two children, ages 3 and 13. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner received WFNJ/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits until April 10, 2015, on which date she incurred a 90-day "job quit" penalty because she voluntarily abandoned employment. *Ibid.* Additionally, Petitioner is ineligible for ES benefits for a six-month period from April 10, 2015 through July 10, 2015 because she voluntarily quit her employment without good cause. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c)(1)(3).

Further, Petitioner was sanctioned in July 2014 for not complying with the WFNJ work requirement, but she has since come into compliance with same. See Initial Decision at 2.

On April 8, 2015, Petitioner applied to the Agency for an EA/TRA extension. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency denied Petitioner's application because she has, to date, received a total of 30 months of EA and thus has exhausted her lifetime limit of EA under the WFNJ regulations. See Initial Decision at 2 and 10; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a) and -6.4(d). Further, Petitioner was deemed ineligible to receive a 12-month EA/TRA extension under the Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") pilot project because she received a WFNJ sanction within the last 12 months. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.9(c)(1).

More importantly, however, Petitioner is ineligible for EA because she is not a WFNJ or Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") recipient. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a)(only WFNJ and SSI recipients are eligible for EA).

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

By way of comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's exceptions and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

A copy of the Initial and Final Decisions in this matter will be sent to the Department of Child Protection and Permanency ("DCP&P"), f/k/a the Division of Youth and Family Services ("DYFS"), to insure that the health, safety, and welfare of Petitioner's children are protected.

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

JUN 23 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director