



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

Nalasha 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 16117-15 J.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA568052 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's failure to process his application for an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency failed to process Petitioner's application for an extension of EA benefits contending that it did not receive an application from Petitioner. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 19, 2015, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony. No documents were admitted into evidence.

On October 20, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, directing Petitioner to reapply for an extension of EA benefits, and cooperate with the application process; and directed the Agency to process that application on an expedited basis. See Initial Decision at 3. Further, the record shows that Petitioner has received 12 months of EA benefits, plus a furniture voucher, and, therefore, may be eligible for an extension of EA benefits, subject to applicable eligibility criteria. *Id.* at 2.

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 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, if Petitioner is denied an extension of EA benefits, he may request another fair hearing on the matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED.

OCT 30 2015 *Signed Copy on File*
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director