



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 8265-15 K.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C402857 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"). The Agency denied Petitioner's application because it contended that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA and all available extensions. Because Petitioner appealed, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 6, 2015, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On July 20, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision reversing the Agency determination.

Neither party filed Exceptions to the Initial Decision.

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

At the hearing, the ALJ found that the Agency improperly denied Petitioner an EA/TRA extension because Petitioner had not reached her lifetime limit of EA. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Therefore, the ALJ concluded, and I concur, that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application should be reversed. See initial Decision at 4. Further, I agree with the ALJ that the Agency should provide EA/TRA to Petitioner, retroactive to June 2015. Ibid.

By way of comment, with the grant of EA/TRA to Petitioner as set forth above, Petitioner will have exhausted all of her available EA. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4.

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

AUG 19 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director