



State of New Jersey

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 9254-15 M.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA207086 (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 an extension of EA because it contended she had exhausted her lifetime limit of EA and all available extensions, and she had the capacity to plan for her housing emergency and failed to do so. Because Petitioner appealed, this matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 21, 2015, the Honorable Caridad F. Rigo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On July 31, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

Neither party filed Exceptions to the Initial Decision.

The record reveals that Petitioner is a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") recipient who submitted an application for EA on June 10, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2. At the hearing, the Agency testified that Petitioner previously received 45 months of EA and has exhausted any available extensions. *Ibid.* Petitioner testified that she was scheduled to undergo spinal surgery in September, but did not provide documentation to support this claim. *Ibid.* Based upon the evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner failed to meet her burden of proof that she qualifies for any further extension of EA and, in fact, has exceeded her lifetime limit and any available extensions. *Id.* at 3.

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.

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

AUG 24 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director