



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625
(609) 588-2400

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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 3907-15 N.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA542946 (WEST ORANGE TOWN MWD)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits under the extreme hardship extension. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits because she did not meet any of the criteria for eligibility under the extreme hardship extension. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 14, 2015, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On April 15, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record indicates that Petitioner has received 14 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner did not meet any of the criteria, set out in N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1), required for an extreme hardship extension of EA past the 12-month lifetime limit for EA benefits. *Id.* at 2-4. Additionally, the ALJ found that Petitioner was not eligible for an extension of EA benefits under the Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot, because she had not applied for SSI, she had not provided the Agency with a Med-1 form substantiating at least 12 months of a disability, nor did she meet any of the other criteria needed for HAP eligibility. *Id.* at 5.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

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, Petitioner may reapply for an extension of EA benefits, should her circumstances change, she is still in need of EA benefits, and she is otherwise eligible for an extension of EA benefits in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4 and -6.10.

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

MAY 19 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director