



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 5799-15 S.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA261292 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Emergency Assistance ("EA") in the form of Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") and/or Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application on the grounds that Petitioner did not meet the requirements for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and thus Petitioner was ineligible for EA benefits. Further, Petitioner failed to submit sufficient paperwork to determine eligibility. Because the Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 28, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On April 29, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's decision. At the hearing, the Agency asserted that Petitioner has not met the requirements for GA and thus is ineligible for EA effective March 3, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1 and R-2. Additionally, Petitioner failed to provide necessary documents requested by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2. While testifying at the hearing, Petitioner admitted to the ALJ that she failed to provide the requested information to the Agency in a timely manner. See Initial Decision at 3. In his Initial Decision, the ALJ noted that an EA applicant is required to provide the Agency with all necessary documents pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2 et seq. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Because Petitioner did not comply with this requirement, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA benefits and the ALJ affirmed the Agency's determination. See Initial Decision at 3.

Neither party filed exceptions to the Initial Decision.

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 decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

MAY 12 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director