



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 14879-15 S.Z.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA567653 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of his Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits in the form of Temporary Rental Assistance ("TRA"), and the denial of his application for an extension of EA under the extreme hardship provision. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits and denied any further extension because it determined that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA, and did not meet the eligibility criteria for a further extension. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 22, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On October 28, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner is a Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") recipient who has received over 12 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3. The ALJ found that Petitioner had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, and he did not meet the eligibility criteria for an extension under the EA regulations. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), and (c). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, and properly denied him an extension of same. See Initial Decision at 2.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on November 4, 2015.

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, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

NOV 06 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director