



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 5820-14 T.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA195299 (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 17, 2014, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 4, 2014, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

Neither party submitted exceptions.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I independently reviewed the record and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Petitioner receives Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits.

The purpose of EA is to meet the emergent needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work activities without disruption and continue on a path to self-sufficiency. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(a). In order to maintain eligibility for EA benefits, the recipient must take reasonable steps to resolve her emergent situation. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

Reasonable steps include, but are not limited to, the recipient participating in the creation of and complying with a service plan. Ibid. If a recipient fails to comply with the service plan, then the recipient's EA must be terminated for a period of six months. Ibid.

Petitioner's June and December 2013 Service Plans ("SP") required him to pursue Section 8 housing. In January 2014, the Agency advised Petitioner of the potential availability of Section 8 housing and mailed him an application. In April 2014, the Agency terminated EA after Petitioner admitted he had not submitted any applications for Section 8 housing.

Petitioner did not establish good cause for his conceded failure to submit any Section 8 applications despite the requirements of his SP and notwithstanding the Agency's repeated, affirmative encouragement.

For the foregoing reasons, I ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

AUG 28 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director