



## 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 326-15 V.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C2202623 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits because she did not show that she was in a state of homelessness or imminent homelessness. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 5, 2015, the Honorable Sandra Ann Robinson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open until February 10, 2015, to allow Petitioner time to provide certain documents to the court. On March 4, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, which affirmed the Agency's action.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that the Petitioner is not homeless and has not received a Notice of Eviction or letter to vacate. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.1(c). Moreover, the ALJ noted that the Agency has not indicated that it will not assist the Petitioner if and when she finds herself in an emergent situation. As the Petitioner was not facing eviction at the time she applied for EA, I agree with the ALJ's conclusion that the Agency appropriately denied Petitioner's application for EA. The Petitioner is free to reapply for EA when she receives a Notice of Eviction.

Based on the foregoing, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is AFFIRMED.

**MAY 12 2015**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson  
Director