



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 18721-15 D.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA247088 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits contending that she did not meet the eligibility criteria, that she failed to comply with her EA service plan ("SP"), and that she turned down placement at an affordable housing unit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 23, 2015, the Honorable W. Todd Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 30, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that Petitioner had violated her SP by failing to apply for affordable housing, and found that she had turned down an affordable housing placement in August 2015. See Initial Decision 3, 9. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits. *Id.* at 9-10; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6, -6.1(c)(3)(i).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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.

Additionally, because Petitioner was found to have violated the terms of her SP, she is ineligible for EA benefits for a period of six months. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.6(a).

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

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

JAN 26 2016

Natasha Johnson

Director