



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 148-16 M.V.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA338850 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of an extreme hardship extension of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner an extension of EA benefits contending that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits and did not qualify for an extension. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 16, 2016, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On the same day, 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 15 months of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The record further shows that Petitioner is not in danger of losing employment; is not in danger of imminent breakup of his family unit; is not in imminent physical danger; and is capable of caring for himself. *Id.* at 2-3. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner has exhausted his lifetime limit of EA benefits, and that he is not eligible for an extreme hardship extension of EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4.

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 Initial Decision in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

JAN 25 2016

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director