# IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU

RACHEL E CALDWELL Claimant	APPEAL 21A-UI-14828-DB-T
	ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECISION
IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT	
	OC: 01/05/20 Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Overpayment of Benefits PL 116-136 Sec 2107 – Federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

## STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant filed an appeal from the June 23, 2021 (reference 05) unemployment insurance decision that found claimant was overpaid Federal PEUC benefits in the amount of \$375.00 for three weeks between June 21, 2020 and July 11, 2020. The claimant was properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on August 26, 2021. The claimant participated personally. The administrative law judge took administrative notice of the claimant's unemployment insurance benefits records. The hearing was consolidated with Appeal No. 21A-UI-14827-DB-T.

#### **ISSUE:**

Is the claimant overpaid PEUC benefits from June 21, 2020 through July 11, 2020?

## FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed an original claim for regular unemployment insurance benefits funded by the State of Iowa with an effective date of January 5, 2020. He was paid Federal PEUC benefits from June 21, 2020 through July 11, 2020, after she had reached her maximum benefit amount for regular unemployment insurance benefits funded by the State of Iowa. The total PEUC benefits paid to her from June 21, 2020 through July 11, 2020 was \$375.00 (\$125.00 per week).

lowa Workforce Development issued a decision dated August 11, 2020 (reference 03) which found that the claimant was not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits funded by the State of Iowa due to her not being able to and available for work effective June 21, 2020. That decision was appealed and a hearing was held on August 26, 2021 in consolidation with this case. Administrative Law Judge Boucher issued a decision in Appeal No. 21A-UI-14827-DB-T that found the underlying denial decision was affirmed and benefits were denied effective June 21, 2020 as the claimant was not able to work or available for work.

## REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes as follows:

Iowa Code § 96.3(7)a provides:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

Section 2107 of the CARES Act, PL 116-136, created a new temporary federal program called Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) that initially provided up to 13 additional weeks of benefits to individuals who have exhausted their regular unemployment compensation entitlement.

PL 116-136 Sec 2107 provides in pertinent part:

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

(a) FEDERAL-STATE AGREEMENTS. —

(1) IN GENERAL. — Any State which desires to do so may enter into and participate in an agreement under this section with the Secretary of Labor (in this section referred to as the "Secretary"). Any State which is a party to an agreement under this section may, upon providing 30 days' written notice to the Secretary, terminate such agreement.
(2) PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT. —

Any agreement under paragraph (1) shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of pandemic emergency unemployment compensation to individuals who—

(A) have exhausted all rights to regular compensation under the State law or under Federal law with respect to a benefit year (excluding any benefit year that ended before July 1, 2019);

(B) have no rights to regular compensation with respect to a week under such law or any other State unemployment compensation law or to compensation under any other Federal law;

(C) are not receiving compensation with respect to such week under the unemployment compensation law of Canada; and

(D) are able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work.

In this case, the claimant received PEUC benefits after exhausting her regular unemployment insurance benefits funded by the State of Iowa. However, claimant was found to be ineligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits due to her not being able to work and available for work effective June 21, 2020 in Appeal No. 21A-UI-14827-DB-T. As such, the claimant has been overpaid PEUC benefits in the amount of \$375.00 for the three weeks between June 21, 2020 and July 11, 2020 as she was previously found to be ineligible for benefits.

Pursuant to PL 116-136 Section 2107(E)(2) of the CARES Act, the claimant may request a waiver of the overpayment of PEUC benefits. The request for waiver should be sent to:

Iowa Workforce Development Overpayment Waiver Request 1000 East Grand Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50319

The request for waiver of overpayment should include the claimant's name, address, decision number and date of decision, dollar amount of overpayment requested for waiver, and all relevant facts the claimant feels would justify a waiver of the overpayment balance. The claimant may also visit https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/application-overpayment-waiver.

#### **DECISION:**

The June 23, 2021 (reference 05) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant was overpaid PEUC benefits of \$375.00 between June 21, 2020 and July 11, 2020.

Dawn. Morucher

Dawn Boucher Administrative Law Judge

August 30, 2021 Decision Dated and Mailed

db/scn