

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

---

**JULIE A PENNING**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 21A-UI-11214-JC-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 04/11/21  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

---

Iowa Code § 96.4(4)a-c – Monetary Eligibility and Subsequent Benefit Year

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On April 26, 2021, Julie A. Penning, (claimant/appellant) filed a timely appeal from the April 21, 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective April 11, 2021 based on a finding claimant had not been paid insured wages during or after the previous claim year in an amount of at least eight times the weekly benefit amount of the previous claim year.

After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on July 8, 2021. Claimant participated personally. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

**ISSUE:**

Did the claimant earn insured wages of at least eight times the prior claim year's weekly benefit amount during or after the previous benefit year to become eligible for a second benefit year?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

The claimant's state weekly benefit amount in the prior claim year effective April 12, 2020 is \$187.00. She wishes to claim benefits during a second claim year effective April 11, 2021. The claimant did not earn at least eight times the prior claim year's weekly benefit amount in insured wages during or subsequent to the prior claim year beginning April 12, 2020. Wages earned before her claim year, but paid **after** claimant established her claim are not considered in this calculation according to Iowa law.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the April 21, 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective April 11, 2021 based on a finding claimant had not been paid insured wages during or after the previous claim year in an amount of at least eight times the weekly benefit amount of the previous claim year is **AFFIRMED**.

Effective July 2, 2017, Iowa Code section 96.4(4)a and c provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

4. a. The individual has been paid wages for insured work during the individual's base period in an amount at least one and one-quarter times the wages paid to the individual during that quarter of the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest; provided that the individual has been paid wages for insured work totaling at least three and five-tenths percent of the statewide average annual wage for insured work, computed for the preceding calendar year if the individual's benefit year begins on or after the first full week in July and computed for the second preceding calendar year if the individual's benefit year begins before the first full week in July, in that calendar quarter in the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest, and the individual has been paid wages for insured work totaling at least one-half of the amount of wages required under this paragraph in the calendar quarter of the base period in which the individual's wages were highest, in a calendar quarter in the individual's base period other than the calendar quarter in which the individual's wages were highest. The calendar quarter wage requirements shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of ten dollars.

c. If the individual has drawn benefits in any benefit year, the individual must during or subsequent to that year, work in and be paid wages for insured work totaling at least eight times the individual's weekly benefit amount, as a condition to receive benefits in the next benefit year.

Although the administrative law judge recognizes claimant's earnest and active search for work, because the claimant did not demonstrate an ongoing connection to the labor market by earning at least eight times the prior claim year's weekly benefit amount in insured wages during or subsequent to the claim year beginning April 12, 2020, she is not eligible to receive benefits during the current claim year beginning April 11, 2021.

**DECISION:**

The April 21 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective April 11, 2021 based on a finding claimant had not been paid insured wages during or after the previous claim year in an amount of at least eight times the weekly benefit amount of the previous claim year is AFFIRMED. If claimant does earn eight times the prior claim year's WBA in insured wages he may present evidence of that to IWD to determine eligibility.

*Jennifer L. Beckman*

---

Jennifer L. Beckman  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
Iowa Workforce Development  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
Fax 515-478-3528

July 22, 2021  
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/lj

**NOTE TO CLAIMANT:** This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits, but who are unemployed or continue to be unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>. If this decision becomes final or if you are not eligible for PUA, you may have an overpayment of benefits.

**ATTENTION:** On May 11, 2021, Governor Reynolds announced that Iowa will end its participation in federal pandemic-related unemployment benefit programs effective June 12, 2021. The last payable week for PUA in Iowa will be the week ending June 12, 2021. Additional information can be found in the press release at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/iowa-end-participation-federal-unemployment-benefit-programs-citing-strong-labor-market-and>.

You may find information about food, housing, and other resources at <https://covidrecoveryiowa.org/> or at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/node/3250>

Iowa Finance Authority also has additional resources at <https://www.iowafinance.com/about/covid-19-ifa-recovery-assistance/>