

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

GRANT A DETRICK
Claimant

APPEAL 20A-DUA-00553-B2-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

OC: 05/17/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

PL 116-136, Sec. 2102 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
20 CFR 625 – Federal Pandemic Assistance

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On September 30, 2020, claimant filed a timely appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development decision dated September 18, 2020 that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

A telephone hearing was held on November 18, 2020. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. The claimant participated personally.

Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance?

Is the claimant eligible for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

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

Claimant filed the application for PUA on September 18, 2020. Claimant filed his application for unemployment benefits on May 17, 2020. Claimant works as a part time basketball and volleyball referee. Claimant does not have an organized schedule or specific games that he works, but works high school, college, and assorted AAU-type games throughout Iowa and the Midwest. The last day claimant worked was sometime in May 2020. At that time, claimant would work as an independent contractor refereeing basketball and volleyball games. In this position, claimant would receive word of referees needed for matches and go to games. During the late spring and summer, claimant was not able to work the number of summer tourneys he would normally attend as states and activities were limited. Claimant did continue to take college courses through the summer.

Claimant stated that he has begun refereeing volleyball again in September 2020. He further stated that he was Covid-positive in July of 2020 and did self-quarantine from July 22-August 3, 2020.

Claimant did provide self-certification that he was otherwise able to work and available for work but was unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work because there were fewer games and matches to referee. Telework was not available.

Claimant is not eligible for regular compensation or extended benefits under state or federal law or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) as claimant does not have sufficient earnings to allow for state benefits.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons set forth below, the Iowa Workforce Development decision dated September 18, 2020 that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is affirmed.

Public Law 116-136, Sec. 2102 provides for unemployment benefit assistance to any covered individual for any weeks beginning on or after January 27, 2020 and ending on or before December 31, 2020, during which the individual is unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable to work due to COVID-19. The issue to be determined here is whether claimant is a “covered individual” within the meaning of applicable law.

(3) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered individual”—

(A) means an individual who—

(i) is not eligible for regular compensation or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under section 2107, including an individual who has exhausted all rights to regular unemployment or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under section 2107; and

(ii) provides self-certification that the individual—

(I) is otherwise able to work and available for work within the meaning of applicable State law, except the individual is unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work because—

(aa) the individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;

(bb) a member of the individual's household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;

(cc) the individual is providing care for a family member or a member of the individual's household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;

(dd) a child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to

attend school or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for the individual to work;

(ee) the individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(ff) the individual is unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;

(gg) the individual was scheduled to commence employment and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(hh) the individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;

(ii) the individual has to quit his or her job as a direct result of COVID-19;

(jj) the individual's place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency; or

(kk) the individual meets any additional criteria established by the Secretary for unemployment assistance under this section; or

(II) is self-employed, is seeking part-time employment, does not have sufficient work history, or otherwise would not qualify for regular unemployment or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under section 2107 and meets the requirements of subclause (I); and

(B) does not include—

(i) an individual who has the ability to telework with pay; or

(ii) an individual who is receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits, regardless of whether the individual meets a qualification described in items (aa) through (kk) of subparagraph (A)(i)(I).

The administrative law judge finds claimant was not unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work because of COVID-19 OR is self-employed, is seeking part-time employment, does not have sufficient work history, or otherwise would not qualify for regular unemployment or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation and is unable or unavailable to work because of COVID-19.

Specifically, claimant was unable or unavailable to work because many of the places where claimant would be taking his self-employment were not open for tournaments during the summer so that he could referee. Claimant did not show that there were no opportunities available as he is not limited by restrictions on where he conducts his employment. As opportunities did continue to exist, even during a summer of Covid, claimant's 'place of employment'(jj) was not closed as there were still events taking place. Claimant is otherwise able to work and available for work within the meaning of applicable State law. Claimant is not eligible for regular compensation or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation. Telework with pay was not available. Claimant was not receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits.

DECISION:

The Iowa Workforce Development decision dated September 18, 2020 that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is affirmed.



Blair A. Bennett
Administrative Law Judge

November 30, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/mh