

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

MACE S BARNES
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-12995-SC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 03/14/21
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On May 26, 2021, Mace S. Barnes (claimant) filed an appeal from the May 24, 2021, reference 01, unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits because of a lack of at least eight times the prior claim year's weekly benefit amount (WBA) in insured wages during or after the prior claim year. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on July 17, 2021. The claimant participated. No exhibits were offered into the record.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant earn insured wages of at least eight times the prior claim year's WBA 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 filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective March 15, 2020. The weekly benefit amount for the claim is \$481.00. The claimant filed a subsequent claim for benefits effective March 14, 2021. While the claimant earned three months of income through self-employment, he has not earned any insured wages since filing a claim for benefits effective March 15, 2020.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is not eligible to receive state unemployment insurance benefits during the subsequent benefit year.

Iowa Code section 96.4(4)a and c provide:

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.

To demonstrate an ongoing connection to the labor market, which does not include self-employment, the claimant needs to earn eight times the WBA, or \$3,848.00, in insured wages after March 15, 2020, to be eligible for benefits in the claim he filed effective March 14, 2021. The claimant has not earned any insured wages since the prior claim year. Therefore, he has not demonstrated an ongoing connection to the labor market and is not eligible for benefits in the claim year effective March 14, 2021.

DECISION:

The May 24, 2021, reference 01, unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant is not eligible to receive state unemployment insurance benefits during the current claim year beginning March 14, 2021.

If the 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.



Stephanie R. Callahan
Administrative Law Judge

July 28, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

src/scn