

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

**DENISE A ROBINSON**

Claimant

**APPEAL 21A-UI-08095-AW-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**BOONE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DIST**

Employer

**OC: 03/15/20**

**Claimant: Respondent (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.1A(37) – Definitions – Total, partial unemployment  
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Eligibility – A&A – Able to, available for, work search  
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)A(2) – Charges – Same base period employment  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(26) – Eligibility – A&A – Part-time same hours, wages  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2)(i)(1) – Eligibility – On-call workers  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2)(i)(3) – Eligibility – A&A – On-call workers, wage history

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Employer filed an appeal from the March 15, 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that allowed benefits. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on June 2, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Claimant participated with her attorney Andrew Meyer. Employer participated through Mitchell Lewis, Director of Business Services. Employer's Exhibits 1 – 3 were admitted. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

**ISSUES:**

Whether claimant is totally, partially or temporarily unemployed.  
Whether claimant is able to and available for work.  
Whether claimant is a substitute teacher.  
Whether employer's account is subject to charge.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant began employment with Boone Community School District as a Substitute Associate Teacher on January 3, 2019. As a substitute employee claimant was not guaranteed hours and worked on-call for employer. Claimant was on the substitution list for the 2019/2020 school year. Employer closed March 23, 2020 due to Covid-19 and remained closed for the rest of the 2019/2020 school year, which was scheduled to end June 2, 2020.

Claimant filed an initial claim for benefits effective March 15, 2020. Claimant's base period for this claim year began October 1, 2018 and ended September 30, 2019. All wages claimant earned during her base period were from on-call work for this employer.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

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

Iowa Code section 96.1A(37) provides:

"Total and partial unemployment".

a. An individual shall be deemed "totally unemployed" in any week with respect to which no wages are payable to the individual and during which the individual performs no services.

b. An individual shall be deemed partially unemployed in any week in which either of the following apply:

(1) While employed at the individual's then regular job, the individual works less than the regular full-time week and in which the individual earns less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

(2) The individual, having been separated from the individual's regular job, earns at odd jobs less than the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars.

c. An individual shall be deemed temporarily unemployed if for a period, verified by the department, not to exceed four consecutive weeks, the individual is unemployed due to a plant shutdown, vacation, inventory, lack of work or emergency from the individual's regular job or trade in which the individual worked full-time and will again work full-time, if the individual's employment, although temporarily suspended, has not been terminated.

Iowa Code section 96.4(3) provides:

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

3. The individual is able to work, is available for work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work. This subsection is waived if the individual is deemed partially unemployed, while employed at the individual's regular job, as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 37, paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.1A, subsection 37, paragraph "c". The work search requirements of this subsection and the disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or to accept suitable work of section 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2)i(1) and (3) provide:

Benefits eligibility conditions. For an individual to be eligible to receive benefits the department must find that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work. The individual bears the burden of establishing that the individual is able to work, available for work, and earnestly and actively seeking work.

(2) Available for work. The availability requirement is satisfied when an individual is willing, able, and ready to accept suitable work which the individual does not have good cause to refuse, that is, the individual is genuinely attached to the labor market....

i. On-call workers.

(1) Substitute workers (i.e., post office clerks, railroad extra board workers), who hold themselves available for one employer and who do not accept other work, are not available for work within the meaning of the law and are not eligible for benefits.

(3) An individual whose wage credits earned in the base period of the claim consist exclusively of wage credits by performing on-call work, such as a banquet worker, railway worker, substitute school teacher or any other individual whose work is solely on-call work during the base period, is not considered an unemployed individual within the meaning of Iowa Code section 96.19(38)"a" and "b." An individual who is willing to accept only on-call work is not considered to be available for work.

Iowa Code section 96.7(2)a(2) provides:

2. Contribution rates based on benefit experience.

a. (2) The amount of regular benefits plus fifty percent of the amount of extended benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be charged against the account of the employers in the base period in the inverse chronological order in which the employment of the individual occurred.

(a) However, if the individual to whom the benefits are paid is in the employ of a base period employer at the time the individual is receiving the benefits, and the individual is receiving the same employment from the employer that the individual received during the individual's base period, benefits paid to the individual shall not be charged against the account of the employer. This provision applies to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding subparagraph (3) and section 96.8, subsection 5.

(b) An employer's account shall not be charged with benefits paid to an individual who left the work of the employer voluntarily without good cause attributable to the employer or to an individual who was discharged for misconduct in connection with the individual's employment, or to an individual who failed without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work or to accept suitable work with that employer, but shall be charged to the unemployment compensation fund. This paragraph applies to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

(c) The amount of benefits paid to an individual, which is solely due to wage credits considered to be in an individual's base period due to the exclusion and substitution of calendar quarters from the individual's base period under section 96.23, shall be charged against the account of the employer responsible for paying the workers' compensation benefits for temporary total disability or during a healing period under section 85.33, section 85.34, subsection 1, or section 85A.17, or responsible for paying indemnity insurance benefits.

Because claimant was hired to work only on-call or as needed and claimant's wage history consists entirely of on-call wages, claimant is not considered to be unemployed within the meaning of the law.

When an individual is hired to work on-call, the implied agreement is that they will only work when work is available and that work will not be regularly available. Thus, any diminution in

hours is directly related to the on-call status when work is not available as no regular hours were guaranteed.

Accordingly, benefits are denied.

Inasmuch as employer is offering the same wages and hours as contemplated at hire, no benefit charges shall be made to its account.

**DECISION:**

The March 15, 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. Claimant is not considered unemployed because of her on-call employment status in the wage credit history. Benefits are denied. Employer's account (# 101209-000) shall not be charged.



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Adrienne C. Williamson  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
Iowa Workforce Development  
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Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
Fax (515)478-3528

June 21, 2021  
Decision Dated and Mailed

acw/scn

**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>.