

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

COLLEEN M BRANNON
Claimant

APPEAL 19A-UI-03214-DG-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 09/30/18
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2) – Able & Available - Benefits Eligibility Conditions
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(27) – Active and Earnest Search for Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the April 8, 2019, (reference 04), unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits based upon a finding that claimant had not make an adequate work search for the week ending March 23, 2019. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled to be held on May 7, 2019. Claimant participated.

ISSUES:

Is the claimant able to work and available for work effective March 17, 2019?
Did the claimant make an adequate search for work the week-ending March 23, 2019?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant claimed benefits for the week-ending March 23, 2019. The claimant did not make work searches for that week. Claimant misunderstood instructions that were given to her by an Iowa Workforce Development employee.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant has not made an active and earnest search for work for the week in question.

Iowa Code § 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 § 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph 1, or temporarily unemployed as defined in § 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "c". The work

search requirements of this subsection and the disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or to accept suitable work of § 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under § 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(2) provides:

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. Since, under unemployment insurance laws, it is the availability of an individual that is required to be tested, the labor market must be described in terms of the individual. A labor market for an individual means a market for the type of service which the individual offers in the geographical area in which the individual offers the service. Market in that sense does not mean that job vacancies must exist; the purpose of unemployment insurance is to compensate for lack of job vacancies. It means only that the type of services which an individual is offering is generally performed in the geographical area in which the individual is offering the services.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(27) provides:

Availability disqualifications. The following are reasons for a claimant being disqualified for being unavailable for work.

(27) Failure to report on a claim that a claimant made any effort to find employment will make a claimant ineligible for benefits during the period. Mere registration at the workforce development center does not establish that a claimant is able and available for suitable work. It is essential that such claimant must actively and earnestly seek work.

The claimant has not sufficiently demonstrated to the satisfaction of the administrative law judge an active and earnest search for work for the week-ending March 23, 2019. Accordingly, benefits are denied.

DECISION:

The April 8, 2019, (reference 04) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant did not make an active and earnest search for work for the week-ending March 23, 2019. Benefits are denied for that week.

Duane L. Golden
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dlg\scn