

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

DANIEL WILLIAMS
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-13537-JC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 05/16/21
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant/Appellant, Daniel Williams, filed an appeal from the May 28, 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective May 16, 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 August 10, 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 May 17, 2020 is \$364.00. He wishes to claim benefits during a second claim year effective May 16, 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 May 17, 2020.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is ineligible for regular, state benefits for a second benefit year.

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.

When a claimant has drawn benefits in any benefit year, the claimant 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. (This is a requirement for state-funded unemployment insurance benefits.)

To demonstrate an ongoing connection to the labor market, the claimant needs to earn eight times the WBA, or \$2,912.00, in insured wages after May 17, 2020, to be eligible for benefits in the claim he filed effective May 16, 2021. 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 May 17, 2020, he is not eligible to receive benefits during the current claim year beginning May 16, 2021.

DECISION:

The May 28, 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective May 16, 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
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
Iowa Workforce Development
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax 515-478-3528

August 17, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/mh

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/>