

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

**JENNIFER S CAVIN**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 20A-DUA-00537-CL-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 04/12/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (2)**

PL 116-136, Sec. 2012 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On September 30, 2020, the claimant filed a timely appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development decision dated September 28, 2020 that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. A telephone hearing was held on November 17, 2020. The claimant was properly notified of the hearing and participated personally.

**ISSUE:**

Is the claimant eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant started working at the Good Samaritan Society in September 2019. Claimant works as a full-time cook.

In March 2020, the United States declared a public health emergency due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Claimant took a leave of absence beginning April 15, 2020. Claimant lives with her mother who was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) approximately two years ago. Claimant is her mother's primary caretaker. At the beginning of the pandemic, claimant visited with her mother's medical care provider regarding her risk factors. The provider informed claimant that if her mother were to contract COVID 19, it is unlikely she would survive. The provider commented that claimant's work at a long term care facility put claimant at higher risk of contracting the virus and recommended that claimant take a leave of absence until the number of cases in the United States decreases. Claimant followed the medical provider's advice. The provider has not recommended claimant return to work. Instead, the provider has recommended the claimant and her mother take even more precautions than they were previously as the numbers of COVID cases in Iowa are currently skyrocketing.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, 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” who is eligible to receive benefits within the meaning of applicable law.

Section 2102 of the CARES Act describes a covered individual as follows:

(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

(ll) 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 (l); 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)(l).

In this case, claimant is eligible for PUA benefits under subsection (ff) quoted above. A health care provider recommended claimant self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID 19.

**DECISION:**

The Iowa Workforce Development decision dated September 28, 2020 that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits is reversed. PUA benefits are allowed effective April 12, 2020.



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Christine A. Louis  
Administrative Law Judge  
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Fax (515)478-3528

November 24, 2020  
Decision Dated and Mailed

cal/mh