

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

GEORGE T ROBINSON
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-DUA-00901-JC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 01/12/20
Claimant: Appellant (4)

PL 116-136, Sec. 2102– Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
20 CFR 625 – Disaster Unemployment Assistance

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant, George T. Robinson, filed an appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development decision dated January 23, 2021 that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. The claimant waived proper notice and a telephone hearing was conducted on March 30, 2021. The claimant participated personally. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative records.

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: In March 2020, the United States declared a public health emergency based on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The claimant filed a claim for state unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of January 12, 2020. Claimant was paid regular state funded unemployment insurance benefits until he exhausted benefits July 25, 2020. Claimant was then paid federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) until October 24, 2020. Claimant did not receive any benefits October 25, 2020 through December 26, 2020.

Claimant was then determined to be eligible for PEUC benefits effective December 27, 2020. Claimant was notified of the PEUC approval in February 17, 2021 initial decision.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits for the period of October 25, 2020 through December 26, 2020.

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 Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 (enacted December 27, 2020) and American Rescue Act of 2021 (enacted March 11, 2021) extended PUA benefits for weeks of unemployment through September 4, 2021.

The issue to be determined here is whether claimant is a “covered individual” 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—

(l) 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).

The United States Code authorizes the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor to enter into agreements with states to administer Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits under the CARES Act. PL 116-136, Sec. 2102(f). The United States Department of Labor has issued operating instructions to states in implementing section 2102 of the CARES Act. Iowa Code § 96.11 mandates that Iowa Workforce Development “shall cooperate with the United States department of labor to the fullest extent consistent with the provisions of this chapter. . .” When implementing section 2102, the operating instructions direct states to first consult section 2102 of the CARES Act and then the operating instructions. When both are silent, states should refer to section 625 of title 20, Code of Federal Regulations. When consulting the regulations, the term “COVID-19 public health emergency” is to be substituted for the term “major disaster” and the term “pandemic is to be substituted for the term “disaster.”

For the period of October 25, 2020 through December 26, 2020: The administrative law judge finds claimant is not self-employed; does not otherwise qualify for regular unemployment or extended benefits under State or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation at this time; and is otherwise able to work and available for work within the meaning of applicable but is unable or unavailable to work because COVID-19. Therefore, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is eligible for PUA benefits for this period, until claimant's PEUC benefits resume effective December 27, 2020.

DECISION:

The Iowa Workforce Development decision dated January 23, 2021 that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is modified in favor of the claimant/appellant. The claimant's request for PUA benefits is granted for the period of October 25, 2020 through December 26, 2020 only, and provided she is otherwise eligible.



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

March 31, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/ol

NOTE TO CLAIMANT:

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.

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/>