

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

FITAYAL YEMPANE
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

APPEAL 21A-UI-20129-DZ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 03/29/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Fitayal Yempame, the claimant/appellant, filed an appeal from the August 25, 2021, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that concluded she was overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits in the amount of \$1,200.00. Ms. Yempame was properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on November 2, 2021. Ms. Yempame participated and testified. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Has Yempame been overpaid FPUC benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Ms. Yempame filed an initial claim for REGULAR UI benefits effective March 29, 2020. She filed weekly claims and reported her weekly wages from March 29, 2020 through August 15, 2020.

On May 14, 2020, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) issued a decision finding Ms. Yempame eligible to receive FPUC benefits. FPUC is a program under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 that provides additional payment to those individuals that are receiving state or federal unemployment insurance payments. It is funded by the federal government, not by state unemployment taxes paid by employers. The FPUC amount was \$600 per week from April 5, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

Almost seven month after she filed her initial claim, and she had already received REGULAR UI benefits, IWD issued a decision dated October 21, 2020, (reference 01) finding Ms. Yempame not eligible for REGULAR UI benefits as of May 25, 2020. Ms. Yempame appealed that decision. The administrative law judge's decision in Appeal 20A-UI-13862-SN-T, affirmed the reference 01 decision and found Ms. Yempame was not available for work from May 24, 2020 through June 9, 2020.

Ms. Yempane had received REGULAR UI benefits in the amount of \$984.00 for two weeks between May 24, 2020 and June 6, 2020. Since Ms. Yempane had already received REGULAR UI benefits, but he was not eligible for those benefits IWD issued the reference 02 decision appealed in this matter.

Ms. Yempane had received FPUC benefits in the amount of \$1,200.00 for two weeks between May 24, 2020 and June 6, 2020. Since Ms. Yempane was not eligible for REGULAR UI benefits that meant she was not eligible for FPUC benefits. Because Ms. Yempane had already received FPUC benefits, but she was not eligible for those benefits IWD issued the reference 03 decision appealed today.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes Ms. Yempane has been overpaid FPUC benefits.

Iowa Code §96.3(7) provides, in pertinent part:

7. Recovery of overpayment of benefits.

a. If an individual receives benefits for which the individual is subsequently determined to be ineligible, even though the individual acts in good faith and is not otherwise at fault, the benefits shall be recovered. The department in its discretion may recover the overpayment of benefits either by having a sum equal to the overpayment deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual or by having the individual pay to the department a sum equal to the overpayment.

b. (1) (a) If the department determines that an overpayment has been made, the charge for the overpayment against the employer's account shall be removed and the account shall be credited with an amount equal to the overpayment from the unemployment compensation trust fund and this credit shall include both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Provisions of Agreement

(1) Federal pandemic unemployment compensation.--Any agreement under this section shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of regular compensation to individuals in amounts and to the extent that they would be determined if the State law of the State were applied, with respect to any week for which the individual is (disregarding this section) otherwise entitled under the State law to receive regular compensation, as if such State law had been modified in a manner such that the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable for any week shall be equal to

(A) the amount determined under the State law (before the application of this paragraph), plus

(B) an additional amount of \$600 (in this section referred to as "Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation").

....
(f) Fraud and Overpayments

(2) Repayment.--In the case of individuals who have received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to the State agency...

Because Ms. Yempene is disqualified from receiving REGULAR UI benefits, she is also disqualified from receiving FPUC benefits. While Iowa law does not require a claimant to repay regular UI benefits when the employer does not participate in the fact-finding interview, the CARES Act makes no such exception for the repayment of FPUC benefits. Therefore, the determination of whether Ms. Yempene must repay FPUC does not hinge on the employer's participation in the fact-finding interview.

The administrative law judge concludes that Ms. Yempene has been overpaid FPUC in the gross amount of \$1,200.00 for two weeks between May 24, 2020 and June 6, 2020, which should be repaid.

DECISION:

The August 25, 2021, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. Ms. Yempene has been overpaid FPUC benefits in the amount of \$1,200.00, which must be repaid.



Daniel Zeno
Administrative Law Judge
Iowa Workforce Development
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax 515-478-3528

December 2, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

dz/scn

NOTE TO MS. YEMPANE ABOUT WAIVER REQUEST:

- This decision determines you have been overpaid FPUC 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.
- **You may also request a waiver of this overpayment either 1) online, OR 2) in writing by mail.**
- The **online request form** is available on the Iowa Workforce Development website at: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/federal-unemployment-insurance-overpayment-recovery>
- The **written request** must include the following information:
 - Your name & address.
 - Decision number/date of decision.
 - Dollar amount of overpayment requested for waiver.
 - Relevant facts that you feel would justify a waiver.
- The request should be sent to:

Iowa Workforce Development
Overpayment waiver request
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
- If this decision becomes final and you are not eligible for a waiver, you will have to repay the benefits you received.