

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

SHEENA M WRIGHT
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 09A-UI-14858-S2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Original Claim: 03/01/09
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.3-5-b – Training Extension Benefits

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Sheena Wright (claimant) appealed a representative's September 29, 2009 decision (reference 06) that concluded she was not eligible for training extension benefits. After hearing notices were mailed to the claimant's last-known address of record, a telephone hearing was scheduled for November 4, 2009. The claimant participated personally.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant is eligible to receive training extension benefits.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant was involuntarily separated from employment in February 2009, due to a permanent reduction in the employer's workforce. The claimant applied for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of March 1, 2009. She has not applied for Department-Approved Training (DAT). She began studying to become a social worker in September 2009. A social worker is on the Department's list of high-demand fields. She is studying at Des Moines Area Community College and earning a 3.0 grade in each course. The claimant's unemployment insurance benefits have not expired.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is not eligible to receive training extension benefits

Iowa Code section 96.3-5-a-b provides:

- a. Duration of benefits. The maximum total amount of benefits payable to an eligible individual during a benefit year shall not exceed the total of the wage credits accrued to the individual's account during the individual's base period, or twenty-six times the individual's weekly benefit amount, whichever is the lesser. The director shall maintain a separate account for each individual who earns wages in insured work. The director

shall compute wage credits for each individual by crediting the individual's account with one-third of the wages for insured work paid to the individual during the individual's base period. However, the director shall recompute wage credits for an individual who is laid off due to the individual's employer going out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual was last employed, by crediting the individual's account with one-half, instead of one-third, of the wages for insured work paid to the individual during the individual's base period. Benefits paid to an eligible individual shall be charged against the base period wage credits in the individual's account which have not been previously charged, in the inverse chronological order as the wages on which the wage credits are based were paid. However if the state "off indicator" is in effect and if the individual is laid off due to the individual's employer going out of business at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual was last employed, the maximum benefits payable shall be extended to thirty-nine times the individual's weekly benefit amount, but not to exceed the total of the wage credits accrued to the individual's account.

b. Training Extension Benefits.

(1) An individual who has been separated from a declining occupation or who has been involuntarily separated from employment as a result of a permanent reduction of operations at the last place of employment and who is in training with the approval of the director or in a job training program pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-220, at the time regular benefits are exhausted, may be eligible for training extension benefits.

(2) A declining occupation is one in which there is a lack of sufficient current demand in the individual's labor market area for the occupational skills for which the individual is fitted by training and experience or current physical or mental capacity, and the lack of employment opportunities is expected to continue for an extended period of time, or the individual's occupation is one for which there is a seasonal variation in demand in the labor market and the individual has no other skill for which there is current demand.

(3) The training extension benefit amount shall be twenty-six times the individual's weekly benefit amount and the weekly benefit amount shall be equal to the individual's weekly benefit amount for the claim in which benefits were exhausted while in training.

(4) An individual who is receiving training extension benefits shall not be denied benefits due to application of section 96.4, subsection 3, or section 96.5, subsection 3. However, an employer's account shall not be charged with benefits so paid. Relief of charges under this paragraph "b" applies to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

(5) In order for the individual to be eligible for training extension benefits, all of the following criteria must be met:

(a) The training must be for a high-demand occupation or high-technology occupation, including the fields of life sciences, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, alternative fuels, insurance, and environmental technology. "High-demand occupation" means an occupation in a labor market area in which the department determines work opportunities are available and there is a lack of qualified applicants.

(b) The individual must file any unemployment insurance claim to which the individual becomes entitled under state or federal law, and must draw any unemployment insurance benefits on that claim until the claim has expired or has been exhausted, in order to maintain the individual's eligibility under this paragraph "b". Training extension benefits end upon completion of the training even though a portion of the training extension benefit amount may remain.

(c) The individual must be enrolled and making satisfactory progress to complete the training.

For an individual to be eligible to receive training extension benefits, the individual must be separated from employment in a declining occupation or involuntarily separated. The individual must be in approved training. The claimant in this case was involuntarily separated and is not in DAT. That training must be for a high-demand or technology occupation. The claimant's occupation meets the qualifications of a high-demand occupation. The individual's claim must be expired or the individual must have exhausted benefits during the training. The claimant has not exhausted all of her benefits. The individual must be enrolled and making satisfactory progress to complete the training. The claimant meets this requirement. Therefore, the claimant is not eligible to receive training extension benefits.

DECISION:

The representative's September 29, 2009 decision (reference 06) is affirmed. The claimant is not eligible to receive training extension benefits.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/kjw