WHAT IS INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY (IU)?

IU is a part of VA’s disability compensation program that allows VA to pay certain Veterans compensation at the 100% rate, even though VA has not rated their service-connected disabilities at the 100% level.

WHAT IS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INDIVIDUAL UNEMPLOYABILITY?

A Veteran must be unable to maintain substantially gainful employment as a result of his/her service-connected disabilities. (marginal employment, such as odd jobs, is not considered substantial gainful employment for VA purposes). Additionally, a Veteran must have:

- One service-connected disability ratable at 60 percent or more, **OR**
- Two or more service-connected disabilities, at least one disability ratable at 40 percent or more with a combined rating of 70 percent or more.

HOW DO I APPLY?

- Submit VA Form 21-8940, *Veteran’s Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployability*.
- Send your completed application to your nearest VA regional office or call 1-800-827-1000.

WHAT IF I DON’T MEET THE PERCENTAGE CRITERIA?

Special consideration will be given for Veterans when the following criteria are met:

- The Veteran is considered unemployable due to a service-connected disability(ies) but fails to meet the minimum percentage standards, **OR**
• There is evidence of exceptional or unusual circumstances to impairment of earning capacity due to disabilities (for example, interference with employment or frequent periods of hospitalization)

**Note:** Veterans may have to complete an employment questionnaire once a year in order for VA to determine continued eligibility to IU.