

Guernsey Impact Initiative – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

About the Program

What is the Guernsey Impact Initiative? The Guernsey Impact Initiative is a local talent-attraction and retention program designed to encourage recent graduates and skilled professionals to live and work in Guernsey County. Participants receive financial support toward qualifying (Federal or Private) student loan repayment and commit to contributing to the community through employment and civic engagement.

Why does Guernsey County offer this program? Like many rural communities, Guernsey County faces workforce shortages and “brain drain.” This initiative helps attract and retain educated, community-minded residents who strengthen the local economy, nonprofit sector, and civic life.

Eligibility

Do I need to live in Guernsey County to apply? Applicants must reside in Guernsey County or relocate to Guernsey County within 90 days. You must reside in Guernsey County for the full four years to receive the full four years of support.

Do I need to work in Guernsey County? Yes. Your employer must have a **significant presence** in Guernsey County. Remote workers qualify if their employer is physically located in the county and they perform their work while residing here.

I’m a remote employee whose employer is outside the county. Am I eligible? No. If your employer is physically located outside Guernsey County, you are not eligible.

Do I need to own a home? No. You may rent or own, as long as you reside in Guernsey County.

Are there age restrictions? No. All ages may apply.

What graduation time frame is required? Applicants must have graduated from a post-secondary institution or training program within the last **seven years** for non-residents relocating in Guernsey county, and, **three years** for current residents.

Are trade school graduates eligible? Yes. All post-secondary institutions, including trade schools, are eligible.

I didn’t graduate but I have student loan debt. Can I apply? No. Applicants must have completed a post-secondary program.

Student Loan Questions

What types of student loans qualify? Federal and Private student loan debt qualify.

Is the loan repayment taxable? Yes. Under current federal tax law, post-graduation scholarship or loan-repayment assistance is considered taxable income.

Relocation Requirements

If I live outside Guernsey County, do I need to move? Yes. Non-residents accepted into the program must relocate to Guernsey County within Ninety days of acceptance.

Application Process

How do I apply? Applications can be found through the Guernsey Impact Initiative website

What does the application include?

Basic personal and educational information

Employment verification

Student loan documentation

Community involvement details

Letters of recommendation

Who reviews applications? Applications are reviewed by a committee of local leaders.

Award Details

How much assistance can I receive? Up to **\$20,000 over four years**

How are payments made? Directly to the recipient on a monthly basis, with verified proof of payment made to the lender.

When will awardees be notified? December 1

Community Engagement

Do I need to be involved in the community? Yes. The Guernsey Impact Initiative encourages awardees to contribute to local organizations, youth programs, boards, faith-based groups, and wellness initiatives.