

2022

Poverty Exemption

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION COMPLETELY BEFORE
FILLING OUT THE INFORMATION
REQUIRED.

**ALL FORMS MUST BE COMPLETELY
FILLED OUT AND ALL REQUIRED
CRITERIA MUST ACCOMPANY
THE APPLICATION.**

FOREST TOWNSHIP POLICY # 2022-02
POVERTY EXEMPTION POLICY

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the township board; and

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under Public Act 390, 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390, 1994 FOREST TOWNSHIP, Genesee County adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household. To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis;

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File an application with the supervisor or board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead.
3. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification, if requested.
4. Produce evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
5. Meet the Federal poverty income standards as defined in the Forest Township Poverty Exemption application.
6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, in the year which the property owner is asking for tax relief. The application must be turned in before the last day of the board of review. (Second Tuesday in December)
7. Have assets not to exceed 15% of the applicable income level not considering their home and one vehicle.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy granting or denying an exemption, unless the board of review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and they are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Linda Smoke and supported by Board Member Lisa Margrif. A roll call vote was taken: Margrif: Yes. Smoke: Yes. Price: Yes. All voted yes. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Lisa Margrif, Clerk

I, Lisa Margrif, the duly elected Clerk of Forest Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board of said township at the regular meeting of said board held on February 14, 2019, at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

Lisa Margrif, Clerk

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$12,880
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500
5	\$31,040
6	\$35,580
7	\$40,120
8	\$44,660
For each additional person	\$4,540

Note: MCL 211.7u states that the poverty exemption guidelines established by the governing body of the local assessing unit shall also include an asset level test. An asset test means the amount of cash, fixed assets or other property that could be used, or converted to cash for use in the payment of property taxes. The asset test should calculate a maximum amount permitted and all other assets above that amount should be considered as available. Please see STC Bulletin 3 of 2021 for more information on poverty exemptions.

Note: PA 135 of 2012 changed the requirements for filing documentation in support of a poverty exemption to allow an affidavit (Treasury Form 4988) to be filed for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns in the current year or in the immediately preceding year. This includes the owner of the property who is filing for the exemption.

C. Poverty Exemption: PA 253 of 2020 and Important Reminders

Public Act 253 of 2020 was signed into law on December 23, 2020. The Act made several changes to the poverty exemption statute (MCL 211.7u) that will impact how local units, assessors, and boards of review handle the exemption starting with the 2021 tax year.

Based on the Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirement reviews conducted in 2021, 50% of the local units reviewed **were not** following the new requirements in the law for poverty exemptions. It is important for assessors to review and understand the changes to the poverty exemption statute and to work with local officials and boards of review to ensure the necessary policies and guidelines are in place and are being followed. The governing body of the local unit may need to revise its policy and guidelines to make sure to comply with the law changes. An income test and an asset test are still required.

The Board of Review shall approve or deny the request for the poverty exemption. The Board of Review is required to follow the policy and guidelines adopted by the local assessing unit in granting or denying a poverty exemption. **The Board of Review is**

Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption

This form is issued under the authority of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, MCL 211.7u.

MCL 211.7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, provides a property tax exemption for the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges. This application is to be used to apply for the exemption and must be filed with the Board of Review where the property is located. This application may be submitted to the city or township the property is located in each year on or after January 1.

To be considered complete, this application must: 1) be completed in its entirety, 2) include information regarding all members residing within the household, and 3) include all required documentation as listed within the application. Please write legibly and attach additional pages as necessary.

PART 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION — Petitioner must list all required personal information.				
Petitioner's Name			Daytime Phone Number	
Age of Petitioner	Marital Status	Age of Spouse	Number of Legal Dependents	
Property Address of Principal Residence		City	State	ZIP Code
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if applied for Homestead Property Tax Credit		Amount of Homestead Property Tax Credit		
PART 2: REAL ESTATE INFORMATION				
List the real estate information related to your principal residence. Be prepared to provide a deed, land contract or other evidence of ownership of the property at the Board of Review meeting.				
Property Parcel Code Number		Name of Mortgage Company		
Unpaid Balance Owed on Principal Residence	Monthly Payment	Length of Time at this Residence		
Property Description				
PART 3: ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION				
List information related to any other property owned by you or any member residing in the household.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you own, or are buying, other property. If checked, complete the information below.			Amount of Income Earned from other Property	
1	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid
2	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid

PART 4: EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION — List your current employment information.					
Name of Employer					
Address of Employer		City	State	ZIP Code	
Contact Person		Employer Telephone Number			
PART 5: INCOME SOURCES					
List all income sources, including but not limited to: salaries, Social Security, rents, pensions, IRAs (Individual retirement accounts), unemployment compensation, disability, government pensions, worker's compensation, dividends, claims and judgments from lawsuits, alimony, child support, friend or family contribution, reverse mortgage, or any other source of income, for all persons residing at the property.					
Source of Income			Monthly or Annual Income (indicate which)		
PART 6: CHECKING, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT INFORMATION					
List any and all savings owned by all household members, including but not limited to: checking accounts, savings accounts, postal savings, credit union shares, certificates of deposit, cash, stocks, bonds, or similar investments, for all persons residing at the property.					
Name of Financial Institution or Investments	Amount on Deposit	Current Interest Rate	Name on Account	Value of Investment	
PART 7: LIFE INSURANCE — List all policies held by all household members.					
Name of Insured	Amount of Policy	Monthly Payments	Policy Paid in Full	Name of Beneficiary	Relationship to Insured
PART 8: MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION					
All motor vehicles (including motorcycles, motor homes, camper trailers, etc.) held or owned by any person residing within the household must be listed.					
Make	Year	Monthly Payment	Balance Owed		

PART 9: HOUSEHOLD OCCUPANTS — List all persons living in the household.

First and Last Name	Age	Relationship to Applicant	Place of Employment	\$ Contribution to Family Income

PART 10: PERSONAL DEBT — List all personal debt for all household members.

Creditor	Purpose of Debt	Date of Debt	Original Balance	Monthly Payment	Balance Owed

PART 11: MONTHLY EXPENSE INFORMATION

The amount of monthly expenses related to the principal residence for each category must be listed. Indicate N/A as necessary.

Heating	Electric	Water	Phone
Cable	Food	Clothing	Health Insurance
Garbage	Daycare	Car Expense (gas, repair, etc.)	
Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	
Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	

NOTICE: Per MCL 211.7u(2)(b), federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year must be submitted with this application. Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax year in which the exemption under this section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year.

PART 11: POLICY AND GUIDELINES ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The governing body of the local assessing unit shall determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines used for the granting of exemptions under MCL 211.7u. In order to be eligible for the exemption, the applicant must meet the federal poverty guidelines published in the prior calendar year in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under its authority to revise the poverty line under 42 USC 9902, or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body of the local assessing unit so long as the alternative guidelines do not provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines. The policy and guidelines must include, but are not limited to, the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets. The combined assets of all persons must not exceed the limits set forth in the guidelines adopted by the local assessing unit.

The applicant has reviewed the applicable policy and guidelines adopted by the city or township, including the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets.

PART 12: CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided in this form is complete, accurate and I am eligible for the exemption from property taxes pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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This application shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of the local unit's December Board of Review.

Decision of the March Board of Review may be appealed by petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by July 31 of the current year. A July or December Board of Review decision may be appealed to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by petition within 35 days of decision. A copy of the Board of Review decision must be included with the petition.

Michigan Tax Tribunal
 PO Box 30232
 Lansing MI 48909

Phone: 517-335-9760
 E-mail: taxtrib@michigan.gov

Poverty Exemption Affidavit

This form is issued under authority of Public Act 206 of 1993; MCL 211.7u.

INSTRUCTIONS: When completed, this document must accompany a taxpayer's Application for Poverty Exemption filed with the supervisor or the board of review of the local unit where the property is located. MCL 211.7u provides for a whole or partial property tax exemption on the principal residence of an owner of the property by reason of poverty and the inability to contribute toward the public charges. MCL 211.7u(2)(b) requires proof of eligibility for the exemption be provided to the board of review by supplying copies of federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including property tax credit returns, or by filing an affidavit for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns for the current or preceding tax year.

I, _____, swear and affirm by my signature below that I reside in the principal residence that is the subject of this Application for Poverty Exemption and that for the current tax year and the preceding tax year, I was not required to file a federal or state income tax return.

Address of Principal Residence: _____

Signature of Person Making Affidavit

Date

REASON for EXEMPTION REQUEST

NOTICE: Any willful misstatements or misrepresentations made on this form may constitute perjury, which, under the law is a felony punishable by fine or imprisonment.

NOTICE: A copy of your latest federal income tax return, state income tax return (MI-1040) and your Homestead Property Tax Credit claim (MI-1040CR 1,2,3 OR 4) must be attached as proof of income.

NOTE: DO NOT SIGN UNTIL WITNESSED BY THE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR, ASSESSOR, BOARD OF REVIEW, OR NOTARY PUBLIC.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF GENESEE

The undersigned, being duly sworn, deposes and says that the statements made in the foregoing application are true and that he/she has no money, income or property other than mentioned herein.

Petitioner

Subscribed and sworn this _____ day of _____, 20_____

Signature: _____
Supervisor, Assessor, Board of Review Member or Notary Public

This application shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of Board of Review. Address: _____

FOR BOARD OF REVIEW USE

Disposition by Board of Review _____ Date _____

Denied: _____ Approved: _____ Assessment Reduced to: _____
Taxable Reduced to: _____

Supervisor _____ Chairperson _____

Second Member _____ Third Member _____

DECISIONS MAY BE APPEALED TO THE MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL