

**THOMPSON TOWNSHIP, SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY MICHIGAN
APPLICATION FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

Year _____

Parcel _____

Owner _____

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the supervisor/assessor or Board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credits returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed State Tax Commission form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit. 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. Instead, Form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit may be filed for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns in the current or immediately preceding year.
3. File a claim reporting that the combined incomes of all person does not exceed the current guidelines. According to the United State Census Bureau "income" includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Money, wages, salaries before deductions, regular contributions from persons not living in the residence
 - b. Net receipts from non-farm or farm self-employment (receipts from a person's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after business expense deductions) 5102 (Rev. 01-190 page 2
 - c. Regular payments from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment, worker's compensation, veteran's payments, public assistance, supplemental security income (SSI), Alimony, child support, military family allotments
 - d. Private and governmental retirement and disability pensions, regular insurance, annuity payments
 - e. Collage or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, assistantships
 - f. Dividends, interest, and net income from rentals, royalties, estates, trusts, gambling or lottery winnings
4. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
5. Produce a deed, land contact, or other evidence of ownership of the property, if requested.
6. Meet the asset level test adopted by the local assessing unit, Example attached in exhibit A. also included with application.
7. Meet the federal poverty guideline published in the prior calendar year in the Federal Register by the United State Department of Health and Human Services. This yearly publication of income guidelines will be printed and available with the application.

Full or Partial Poverty Exemption per PA 253 of 2020 MCL 211.7u(5) states that if a person claiming the poverty exemption meets all eligibility requirement, the Board of Review shall grant the poverty exemption, in whole or in parts, as follows:

- a. A full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; or
- b. A partial exemption equal to a 75% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted.
- c. A partial exemption equal to a 50% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; or
- d. A partial exemption equal to a 25% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted.

No other method of calculating taxable value may be utilized, except for those percentage reductions specifically authorized in statute, or any other percentage approved by the State Tax Commission.

To request a poverty exemption, a taxpayer must file:

- d. Form 5737 Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption
- e. Form 5739 Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty
- f. All required additional documentation (such as federal/state income tax returns) Forms 5737 and 5739. along with any additional documentation, must be filed with the local assessing unit where the property is located. These forms do not get filed with the Department of Treasury or the State Tax Commission. The forms may be submitted to the local assessing unit on or after January 1 but before the day prior to the exemption is requested.

The Board of review shall approve or deny the request for the property exemption. The Board of Review is required to follow the policy and guidelines adopted by the local assessing unit granting or denying a poverty exemption. The Board of Review is not permitted to deviate from the adopted policy and guidelines. Poverty exemption application can be heard at the March, July, or December Board of Review. However, there can only be one Board of Review decision already made that year. For example: if an application is denied at the March Board of review, it may not be reheard by July or December Board of Review during the same calendar year. The taxpayer must file an appeal of the March Board of Review to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Assessor Review & Notes:

Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty

This form is issued under the authority of Public Act 253 of 2020.

This form is to be used to affirm ownership, occupancy, and income status. MCL 211.7u(2) provides that, to be eligible for exemption under this section, a person shall, subject to subsection (6) and (8), annually affirm that the applicant owns and occupies, as a principal residence, the property for which an exemption is requested.

PART 1: OWNER INFORMATION — Enter information for the person owning and occupying the residence.			
Owner Name		Owner Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 2: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION (Complete if applicable.)			
Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 3: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY INFORMATION — Enter information for property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
City or Township (check the appropriate box and enter name) <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> Village		County	
Name of Local School District			
Parcel Identification Number		Year(s) Exemption Previously Granted by Board of Review	
Homestead Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 4: AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP, OCCUPANCY, AND INCOME STATUS (Check all boxes that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
<input type="checkbox"/> The property in which the exemption is being claimed is used as my homestead. Homestead is generally defined as any dwelling with its land and buildings where a family makes its home.			
<input type="checkbox"/> After establishing initial eligibility for the exemption, my income and asset status has remained unchanged and/or I receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases beyond the rate of inflation, such as federal Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability or retirement benefits.			
PART 5: CERTIFICATION			
I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided on this form is true and I am eligible to receive an exemption from property taxes by reason of poverty pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.			
Owner or Legal Designee Name (print)		Signature of Owner or Legal Designee	
		Date	
Designee must attach a letter of authority.			
LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE ONLY (DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied (Attach appeal instructions and provide to owner.)		Tax Year(s) exemption will be posted to tax roll	
CERTIFICATION — I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this form is complete and accurate.			
Assessor Signature		Date Certified by Assessor	

Request For Approval of Percentage Reduction in Taxable Value For Poverty Exemptions Under MCL 211.7u

This form is issued under the authority of Public Act 253 of 2020.

This form is to be completed by any local assessing unit requesting to utilize a percentage reduction in taxable value for exemptions granted under MCL 211.7u other than the taxable value reductions permitted by MCL 211.7u(5)(a) and (b)(i). MCL 211.7u(5)(b)(ii) provides that the board of review may grant the poverty exemption, in whole or in part, for any other percentage reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted, applied in a form and manner prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The local assessing unit is required to complete this form in its entirety and submit to the State Tax Commission for review and approval prior to applying any other percentage reduction in taxable value other than what is permitted in statute.

All parts below must be completed.

PART 1: LOCAL ASSESSING UNIT INFORMATION			
City or Township (check the appropriate box and enter name) <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township		County	
City or Township Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 2: PERCENTAGE REDUCTION(S) IN TAXABLE VALUE REQUESTED			
List all requested percentage reductions below:			
PART 3: EXPLANATION OF HOW PERCENTAGE REDUCTION WILL BE CALCULATED AND APPLIED			
Provide an explanation of how the percentage reduction(s) in taxable value will be calculated and applied by the local assessing unit. Attach additional pages if necessary:			
PART 4: CERTIFICATION			
We certify to the best of our knowledge, that the information contained in this form is complete and accurate and that we are authorized to represent the city or township named in this form. We understand that a request for a percentage reduction in taxable value other than what is prescribed in statute must be submitted to and approved by the State Tax Commission prior to use of any other percentage reduction in taxable value by the local assessing unit in granting exemptions under MCL 211.7u.			
City or Township Clerk Name (print)		City or Township Clerk Signature	
Assessing Officer Name (print)		Assessing Officer Signature	

Mail completed form and any attachments to: State Tax Commission, PO Box 30471, Lansing MI 48909;
or e-mail to State-Tax-Commission@michigan.gov

Poverty Exemption Affidavit

This form is issued under authority of Public Act 206 of 1893, 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

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$15,060
2	\$20,440
3	\$25,820
4	\$31,200
5	\$36,580
6	\$41,960
7	\$47,340
8	\$52,720
For each additional person	\$5,380

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: MCL u 211.7 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 does include the owner of the property who is filing for the exemption.

C. Sales Studies

Equalization study dates are as follows for 2024 equalization:

Two Year Study: April 1, two years prior through March 31, current year

Single Year Study: October 1, preceding year through September 30, current year

For 2023 studies for 2024 equalization the dates are as follows:

Two Year Study: April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2023

Single Year Study: October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023

Note that the time period revisions apply to all equalization studies, that is: sales ratio studies, land value studies and economic condition factor studies for appraisals. Also note that the revised time period for two year studies applies to all property classifications.

D. Property Classification

The State Tax Commission reminds assessors that classification is to be determined annually and is based upon the use of the property **And Not** highest and best use of the property. The Commission is aware that some assessors are still classifying according to highest and best use and/ or are not classifying property on an annual basis. The Commission asks that all asseddors take the necessary steps to ensure that all real and personal property is properly classified according to MCL 211.34c.

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

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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

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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)	

Continue and sign on Page 4

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

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