

## Application and Affirmation 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 where the property is located in each year on or after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review. Poverty Exemptions may be heard by the Board of Review during its March, July, and December sessions.

**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.

<b>PART 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION</b> — 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
<b>PART 2: REAL ESTATE INFORMATION</b>				
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 Identification Number		Name of Mortgage Company		
Unpaid Balance Owed on Principal Residence	Monthly Payment	Length of Time at this Residence		
Property Description				
<b>PART 3: AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP, OCCUPANCY, AND INCOME STATUS</b> (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.				
<b>PART 4: ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION</b>				
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 5: EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION** — List your current employment information.

Name of Employer			
Address of Employer	City	State	ZIP Code
Contact Person	Employer Telephone Number		

**PART 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 9: 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



**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 13: 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 14: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION (Complete if applicable.)

Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code

### PART 15: 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 30 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  
Email: [taxtrib@michigan.gov](mailto:taxtrib@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

# MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption Taxpayer Fact Sheet

[MCL 211.7u](#) provides for a property tax exemption, in whole or part, for the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges. For the purposes of the poverty exemption, the term “principal residence” has the same meaning as the term’s principal residence exemption and qualified agricultural property as defined in MCL 211.7dd. The exemption does not apply to property owned by a corporation.

## How To Apply For The Poverty Exemption

To request a poverty exemption, a taxpayer must file:

1. Form 5737 Application and Affirmation for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption
2. All required additional documentation (such as federal/state income tax returns)

Form 5737, along with any additional documentation, must be filed with the local assessing unit where the property is located. **Do not file this form with the Department of Treasury or the State Tax Commission.** The form may be submitted to the local assessing unit on or after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review during the year in which the exemption is requested. Taxpayers should contact the local assessing unit directly to verify submission deadlines to ensure that their application is reviewed by a Board of Review during that calendar year.

In addition to filing Form 5737 and any supporting documentation, a taxpayer must do all of the following to be eligible for the poverty exemption:

1. Own and occupy the property as a principal residence.
2. Provide federal and state income tax returns for the current or immediately preceding year, including any property tax credits, for all persons **residing in the principal residence** (disclosure of the income of an owner who is not residing in the principal residence is not required). 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. Produce a valid driver’s license or other form of identification, if requested.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property, if requested.
5. 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 or alternative guidelines adopted by the local assessing unit. The

alternative guidelines cannot provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.

6. Meet the asset level test adopted by the local assessing unit.

### **Appeal Rights**

An appeal of a decision made by the March Board of Review must be filed by completing and submitting a petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal no later than July 31 of the same year. A decision of the July or December Board of Review may be appealed by filing a petition with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days of the Board of Review's decision. Additional information on how to file an appeal is available by contacting the Michigan Tax Tribunal or by visiting its website at <https://www.michigan.gov/taxtribunal>.

## RESOLUTION 2025-12-01 2026 Whiteford Township Hardship Resolution

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the Whiteford Township Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, the homestead of persons who, in the judgement of the 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, the Whiteford Township Board, Monroe County Michigan, adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset level test of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year; and,

**WHEREAS**, to be eligible, a person shall do each and every of the following on an annual basis:

1. Be the owner of and occupy, as principal residence, the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim and completed application with the Board of Review, **accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year. If you are not required by law to file federal or state income tax returns, form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit, must accompany the application.**
3. If requested, produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification.
4. If requested, produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which the exemption is requested.
5. Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined for 2026 Assessments by the United States Office of Management and Budget as attached hereto as Exhibit A.
6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, 2026 but before the day prior to the last day of the 2026 Board of Review.
7. Liquid assets shall not exceed 4 times the entire annual household income, not including the primary residence.
8. If a person meets all eligibility requirements in statute, the Board of Review must grant a full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value OR a partial exemption equal to a 25%, 50% or 75% reduction in taxable value OR any other percentage reduction in taxable value approved by the STC.

For applicants at or below the 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 100% relief shall be granted.

For applicants between 100% and 115% of the 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 75% relief shall be granted.

For applicants between 115% and 130% of the 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 50% relief shall be granted.

For applicants between 130% and 145% of the 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 25% relief shall be granted.

For applicants above 145% of the 2026 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 0% relief shall be granted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT** the Whiteford Township Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, and that this Resolution shall take immediate effect.

The foregoing Resolution offered by Township Board Member **Lee Strahan** and seconded by Township Board Member **Christine Bischoff**.

Upon a roll call vote, the following number of Township Board Members voted

AYE: Steve Morgan, Bob Lloyd, Christine Bischoff, Lee Strahan, Jeff Thomas.

NAYE: NONE

The Supervisor declared the Resolution adopted.

CERTIFICATE

I, Christine Bischoff, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Whiteford Township, Monroe County Michigan, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Whiteford Township Board at the regular meeting of said Board on December 16, 2025, 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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Bischoff, Whiteford Township Clerk

EXHIBIT A TO TOWNSHIP BOARD RESOLUTION ON POVERTY EXEMPTIONS FOR 2026  
ASSESSMENTS  
FEDERAL POVERTY INCOME STANDARDS FOR 2026 ASSESSMENTS

The following are the federal poverty income standards as of December 31, 2025 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2026 assessments.

Size of Family Unit	2026 Poverty Guidelines 100% Relief	2026 Poverty Guidelines 75% Relief Greater than 100% but equal to or less than 115% of Federal Guidelines	2026 Poverty Guidelines 50% Relief Greater than 115% but equal to or less than 130% of Federal Guidelines	2026 Poverty Guidelines 25% Relief Greater than 130% but equal to or less than 145% of Federal Guidelines
1	\$15,650	\$17,998	\$20,345	\$22,693
2	\$21,150	\$24,323	\$27,495	\$30,668
3	\$26,650	\$30,648	\$34,645	\$38,643
4	\$32,150	\$36,973	\$41,795	\$46,618
5	\$37,650	\$43,298	\$48,945	\$54,593
6	\$43,150	\$49,623	\$56,095	\$62,568
7	\$48,650	\$55,948	\$63,245	\$70,543
8	\$54,150	\$62,273	\$70,395	\$78,518
For Each Additional Person	\$5,500	\$6,325	\$7,150	\$7,975

GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION

1. Applicants may be eligible or considered if their income level meets the above criteria.
2. Applicants may appear at the Board of Review in person and the application should be signed in the presence of the Board of Review unless infirmity or disability does not allow. In such cases, applicants should contact the assessing office to make alternative arrangements. Applicants may have to answer questions regarding their financial affairs, health, and/or the status of people living in their home at this meeting that is open to and may be attended by the public at large.
3. Applicants appearing before the Board of Review will be administered an oath, as follows:  
 "Do you swear and affirm that the evidence and testimony you will give on your own behalf before this Board is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?"
4. Applications will be evaluated based on:
  - a. Data submitted to the Board by the petitioner.
  - b. Testimony taken from the petitioner and information gathered from any source the board may wish to use.
5. The Board will also consider all assets owned by petitioners in its deliberations as to whether relief should be granted.
6. Liquid assets shall not exceed 4 times the entire annual household income, not including the primary residence.
7. The Board of Review must evaluate tax relief based on poverty annually.
8. A successful applicant may be subject to personal investigation by the Township. This would be done only to verify information submitted or statements made to the Board of Review concerning their poverty exemption claim.
9. The Supervisor will keep minutes of all proceedings before the Board of Review.

