

OFFICE USE ONLY (Date Stamp)

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CUSTER TOWNSHIP

2024

Poverty/Hardship  
Exemption Application

OFFICE USE ONLY

NAME:

PARCEL NUMBER:

Custer

- Review/Approve 2024 Board of Review Dates: - ORGANIZATION MTG - March 5TH 9 AM  
 March 11, 2024 - 1:30-7:30 pm - (MONDAY)  
 March 12, 2024 - 1:30-7:30 pm (TUESDAY)  
 July (if needed) July 16, 2024 AT 9 AM  
 December (if needed) December 10TH, 2024 - 9 AM
- Review/Approve 2024 Poverty Exemption guidelines and set asset test \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Inflation Rate Used in the 2024 Capped Value Formula. Inflation rate or 5% whichever is lowest

The inflation rate, to be used in the 2024 Capped Value Formula is 1.05.

The 2024 Capped Value Formula is as follows:

2024 CAPPED VALUE = (2023 Taxable Value - LOSSES) X 1.05 + ADDITIONS

The formula includes 1.05 because the inflation rate multiplier of 1.051 is higher than 1.05.

The 2024 inflation rate, set by the State of Michigan, 1.079. See Bulletin

\*\*\*\*\*

Studies:

Ratio

Residential	Sales Study	<u>4 parcels</u>	<u>27%</u> increase in SEV Value
Commercial	Appraisal Study	<u>5 "</u>	<u>9%</u> increase in SEV Value
Industrial	Appraisal Study	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> % increase in SEV Value
Agricultural	Appraisal Study	<u>13 "</u>	<u>5%</u> increase in SEV Value

Equalization study dates are as follows for 2024 equalization:

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

.....  
Veteran Exemptions:

Public Acts 150, 151, and 152 of 2023 were signed by the Governor on October 19, 2023. The Acts remove the authority of the Boards of Review to review and approve disabled veterans exemptions.

All applications for a disabled veterans exemption are to be reviewed and approved or denied by the assessor.

A disabled veteran or an unremarried surviving spouse must file the application to claim the exemption for 2024 after January 1 and before December 31.


a disabled veterans exemption granted as to taxes levied on or after January 1, 2025 remains in effect, without reapplication, until rescinded by the disabled veteran or unremarried surviving spouse or denied by the assessor. Disabled veterans or unremarried surviving spouses will need to file an application in both 2024 and 2025 to claim the exemption for those tax years.

Under MCL 211.7c, beginning January 1, 2025, the exemption once granted, remains in effect without subsequent annual reapplication by the disabled veteran or unremarried surviving spouse. The exemption continues until rescinded by the property owner or revoked by the assessor.

The local unit is required to implement an audit program that includes all information required under MCL 211.7b(2). The audit may not occur more than once every three years unless there is a reasonable belief the property no longer qualifies for the exemption. Additional audit requirements as to the form and manner of the audit program will be forthcoming from the State Tax Commission. Board of Review Authorities and Responsibilities

Transfers:

2023 Transfers of ownerships:



Personal Property Statements Mailed APR 2024 2-4-24

Assessment Change Notices will be mailed the end of February 2024.

Reminder that Board of Review Members need training every two years.

**2024 CUSTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW**

**1950 E. US Hwy 10, Custer, MI 49405**

The **March Board of Review** is scheduled for:

Monday, March 11, 2024 from 1:30 pm – 7:30 pm

AND

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from 1:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Appeals can be email or mail to the Township Assessor prior to March 11, 2024.

The **Organizational Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 9 am.

**July Board of Review** is scheduled for July 16, 2024 at 9 am (if needed)

**December Board of Review** is scheduled for December 10, 2024 at 9 am (if needed).

All meeting will be held at the <sup>Custer</sup>~~Eden~~ Township Hall. Meeting are open to the public. Notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and Americans with Disabilities act (ADA). Michigan's Open Meeting Act (OMA), MCL 15.261 *et seq.*

Nancy Vandervest, Township Assessor

5635 W. Dewey Road, Ludington, MI 49431

231-510-0076 or [nanc992001@yahoo.com](mailto:nanc992001@yahoo.com)

**Historical Inflation Rate Multipliers**

The following is a listing of the inflation rate multipliers used in the Capped Value and "Headlee" calculations since the start of Proposal A.

<b>Year</b>	<b>IRM</b>
1995	1.026
1996	1.028
1997	1.028
1998	1.027
1999	1.016
2000	1.019
2001	1.032
2002	1.032
2003	1.015
2004	1.023
2005	1.023
2006	1.033
2007	1.037
2008	1.023
2009	1.044

<b>Year</b>	<b>IRM</b>
2010	0.997
2011	1.017
2012	1.027
2013	1.024
2014	1.016
2015	1.016
2016	1.003
2017	1.009
2018	1.021
2019	1.024
2020	1.019
2021	1.014
2022	1.033
2023	1.05 (Capped Value) 1.079 (Headlee)
2024	1.05 (Capped Value) 1.051 (Headlee)

2024 Township Board Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act, MCL 211.7u, states that 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 the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, a township board is required by MCL 211.7u to adopt guidelines for the poverty exemption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, that Custer Township, Mason 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 for exemption under this section, a person must do all of the following on an annual basis (Option, if township board has adopted sample resolution(s): per extension(s) as allowed under MCL 211.7u(6) and (8).)

- 1) Own and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested. The person shall affirm this ownership and occupancy status in writing by filing a form prescribed by the state tax commission with the local assessing unit.
- 2) File a claim with the board of review on a form prescribed by the state tax commission and provided by the local assessing unit, accompanied by 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. 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, and an affidavit in a form prescribed by the state tax commission may be accepted in place of the federal or state income tax return.
- 3) Produce a valid driver license or other form of identification if requested by the supervisor or board of review.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if required by the supervisor or board of review.
- 5) Meet (the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget OR the current poverty income guidelines adopted by the township board).

6) Meet additional eligibility requirements as determined by the township board, including: [insert maximum asset value level/amount and asset test policies here];

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Darryl Dan and supported by Board Member George Allison

Upon roll call vote, the following voted

"Aye:" 5  
"Nay:" 0

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted. Jh.a. J

Clerk: Staci K. Wood

I, Staci K. Wood, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Custer 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 Jan. 15, 2024, 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.

Staci K. Wood Clerk

Resolution to Allow Local Residents to Protest to Board of Review in Writing

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act, MCL 211.30(4) states that, when appealing to the Board of Review, "a nonresident taxpayer may file his or her appearance, protest, and papers in support of the protest by letter, and his or her personal appearance is not required"; and

WHEREAS, MCL 211.30(8) states that "The governing body of the township or city may authorize, by adoption of an ordinance or resolution, a resident taxpayer to file his or her protest before the board of review by letter without a personal appearance by the taxpayer or his or her agent. If that ordinance or resolution is adopted, the township or city shall include a statement notifying taxpayers of this option in each assessment notice under section 24c and on each notice or publication of the meeting of the board of review"; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, in order to ease the burden on taxpayers, the assessor and the Board of Review, and to ensure that all taxpayers have an equal opportunity to be heard by the Board of Review, the Custer Township Board hereby resolves, according to provisions of MCL 211.30(8) of the General Property Tax Act, that the Board of Review shall receive letters of protest regarding assessments from resident taxpayers from the first Tuesday in March until it adjourns from the public hearings for which it meets to hear such protests.

Letters from both residents and nonresidents may include those submitted by (options: handwriting, typewriting, fax, email, text, and in a chat).

All notices of assessment change and all advertisements of board of review meetings must include a statement that the resident taxpayers may protest by letter to the board.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Darryl Davis.

Second offered by Board Member George Allison.

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

"Yes": 5

"No": 0

The Clerk declared the resolution adopted. Steve Kwood

Clerk Date: 1-15-24

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned Township Clerk of the Township of Custer hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Custer held on Jan 15, 2024 the original of which is on file in my office, and that notice of such meeting was given, and the meeting was conducted, pursuant to and in compliance with the Act No. 267, Michigan Public Acts of 1976, as amended.



# Township of

Petition No. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parcel ID No.

## 2024

### Application for Tax Exemption (Poverty – MCL 211.7u)

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED CAREFULLY AND  
COMPLETELY.  
INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

All Petitions are subject to the Open Meetings Act, PA 267 of  
1976

**Documentation must accompany this application.  
Applications submitted without all supporting documentation  
will not be accepted.**

*PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION CAREFULLY*

Public Act 253 of 2020, being Michigan Compiled Law MCL  
211.7u, of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 or 1893  
The following Poverty Exemption Guidelines and Application were  
approved for use as the local standard by the Township Board.

General Property Tax Act (Excerpt) Public Act 253 of 2020

Sec. 7u. (1) The principal residence of a person who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, is unable to

contribute toward the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from the collection of taxes under this act. This section does not apply to the property of a corporation.

(2) To be eligible for exemption under this section, a person shall, subject to subsections (6) and (8), do all of the following on an annual basis:

(a) Own and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested. The person shall affirm this ownership and occupancy status in writing by filing a form prescribed by the state tax commission with the local assessing unit.

(b) File a claim with the board of review on a form prescribed by the state tax commission and provided by the local assessing unit, accompanied by 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. 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. If a 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, an affidavit in a form prescribed by the state tax commission may be accepted in place of the federal or state income tax return. The filing of a claim under this subsection constitutes an appearance before the board of review for the purpose of preserving the claimant's right to appeal the decision of the board of review regarding the claim.

(c) Produce a valid driver license or other form of identification if requested by the supervisor or board of review.

(d) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if required by the supervisor or board of review.

(e) 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 provided the alternative guidelines do not provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.

(3) The application for an exemption under this section must be filed after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review.

(4) 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 this section. If the local assessing unit maintains a website, the local assessing unit shall make the policy and guidelines, and the form described in subsection (2)(b), available to the public on the website. The guidelines must include, but are not limited to, the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets.

(5) The board of review shall follow the policy and guidelines of the local assessing unit in granting or denying an exemption under this section. If a person claiming an exemption under this section is qualified under the eligibility requirements in subsection (2), the board of review shall grant the exemption in whole or in part, as follows:

(a) A full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted.

(b) A partial exemption equal to 1 of the following:

(i) A 50% or 25% reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted.

(ii) As approved by the state tax commission, 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.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, a local assessing unit may permit by resolution a principal residence exempt from the collection of taxes under this section in tax year 2019 or 2020, or both, to remain exempt under this section in tax years 2021, 2022, and 2023 without subsequent reapplication for the exemption, provided there has not been a change in ownership or occupancy status of the person eligible for exemption under subsection (2), and may permit a principal residence exempt for the first time from the collection of taxes under this section in tax year 2021, 2022, or 2023 to remain exempt under this section for up to 3 additional years after its initial year of exempt status without subsequent reapplication for the exemption, provided there has not been a change in ownership or occupancy status of the person eligible for exemption under subsection (2), if the person who establishes initial eligibility under subsection (2) receives 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. Both of the following apply to a person who obtains an extended exemption under this subsection:

(a) The person shall file with the local assessing unit, in a form and manner prescribed by the state tax commission, an affidavit rescinding the

# FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

## For Use in 2024 Assessments

US Department of Health & Human Services

STC Bulletin 3 of 2021

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,420
8	\$50,560
For each additional person	\$5,140

ASSET TEST: the total value of the assets of the applicant and each member of the applicant's household shall not exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_. Excluding the property for which the exemption is requested but including all other property; including from all other persons residing in the household. Property shall include, but is not limited to: cash, savings, stocks, mutual funds, insurance commodities, coin collections, boats, jewelry, art, motor vehicles, recreation vehicles, second homes, or any other saleable real property or other tangible items.

# POVERTY APPLICATION REQUIRED DOCUMENTS CHECK LIST

**Applicants must submit most recent years' copies of the following for all persons residing in the homestead:**

- Completed & Signed Poverty Exemption Application (Forms 5737 & 5739).
- Most recent year's copy of Federal Income Tax Return – 1040 or 1040A for all persons residing in the home. (Please include supporting documents i.e. W-2 Forms, 1099 Forms), etc.
- Most recent years' copy of State of Michigan Income Tax Returns for all persons residing in the home.
- Copy of filed MI-1040CR-1 or MI-1040CR-4.
- If applicant did not file Michigan State Income Tax Return, they MUST provide an annual statement of benefits paid from the Social Security Administration or Michigan Department of Social Services and MUST sign State of Michigan Form 4988 Poverty Exemption Affidavit (attached).
- The applicant must supply a copy of current and valid driver's license, Michigan State Identification card or other form of legal identification for all persons residing in the household.
- A deed, land contract or other evidence of legal ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.

\* All requested information must be included with Poverty Exemption Application. Without the above information the Board will not consider your application.

## 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 City 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 of 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 Expenses (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 12: 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 City, including the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets.

**PART 13: 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 the 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.**

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**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](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

## 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's 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: ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION:** List information related to any other property owned by you or any member residing in the household.

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 for 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**

**STATE TAX COMMISSION POLICY REGARDING REQUESTS FOR PERCENTAGE  
REDUCTIONS IN TAXABLE VALUE FOR POVERTY EXEMPTIONS UNDER MCL 211.7u**

Public Act 253 of 2020 amended MCL 211.7u related to poverty exemptions. PA 253 of 2020 lists the specific percentage reductions in taxable value that may be used by the board of review in granting a poverty exemption. MCL 211.7u(5) states that if a person claiming the poverty exemption meets all eligibility requirements, the board of review shall grant the poverty exemption, in whole or in part, as follows:

1. A full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; or
2. A partial exemption equal to a 50% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; or
3. 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 reduction approved by the State Tax Commission. The Commission shall use the following process for the filing, review, and approval of local assessing unit requests to utilize a percentage reduction in taxable value when approving poverty exemptions under MCL 211.7u:

1. A local assessing unit that wants to use any other percentage reduction(s) in taxable value other than the reductions specifically authorized in statute must obtain permission for use of such percentage reduction(s) by filing Form 5738, *Request For Approval of Percentage Reduction in Taxable Value For Poverty Exemptions Under MCL 211.7u* with the State Tax Commission.
2. The local assessing unit must indicate on the Form the specific percentage reduction(s) in taxable value requested and an explanation of how the requested percentage reduction(s) will be calculated and applied when granting a poverty exemption. Based on case law, calculations that utilize any of the following are **not** permitted:
  - a. A limitation on the maximum value of the principal residence eligible to receive an exemption.
  - b. A requirement that the principal residence must be owned for a certain number of years before a claim for exemption can be made.
  - c. A limitation on the number of years an exemption can be claimed and received.
3. If a person meets all eligibility requirements in statute for receiving a full or partial exemption, the calculation for the percentage reduction in taxable value cannot result in a person receiving no relief, i.e., the calculation cannot result in a taxable value greater than or equal to the taxable value *prior* to application for the poverty exemption in that tax year.
4. Form 5738 must be completed in its entirety and signed by the local assessing unit clerk and assessing officer.

5. The completed Form and any attachments must be submitted to the State Tax Commission at: State Tax Commission, PO Box 30471, Lansing, MI 48909 or by email to [State-Tax-Commission@michigan.gov](mailto:State-Tax-Commission@michigan.gov).
6. Requests will be reviewed by State Tax Commission staff. If insufficient documentation was provided by the local assessing unit, the local assessing unit will be notified in writing and will be permitted to submit adequate documentation to the State Tax Commission within 30 days of the written notice. If adequate documentation is not submitted within the deadline, staff will recommend that the State Tax Commission deny the request.
7. Upon receipt of a completed request, staff will review the proposed percentage reduction(s) in taxable value and explanation of how the reduction(s) will be calculated and applied when granting a poverty exemption. Staff recommendations to approve or deny a local unit request will be forwarded to the State Tax Commission for review and decision.
8. If approved, the local assessing unit will receive written notification within 14 days of the State Tax Commission meeting approving the request.
9. A local assessing unit that wishes to modify any percentage reduction(s) previously approved by the Commission must do so by submitting a new Form 5738 with the requested percentages.

# 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 purposes of the poverty exemption, the term “principal residence” means how principal residence exemption and qualified agricultural property are defined in MCL 211.7dd. The exemption does not apply to property of a corporation. This Taxpayer Fact Sheet includes updates made to MCL 211.7u by Public Act 253 of 2020.

## How To Apply For The Poverty Exemption

To request a poverty exemption, a taxpayer must file:

1. Form 5737 *Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption*
2. Form 5739 *Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty*
3. 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. **Do not file these forms 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 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 deadline dates for submission of the forms to ensure the application gets reviewed by a Board of Review during that calendar year.

In addition to filing Forms 5737 and 5739 and any supporting documentation, a taxpayer must do all 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 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 of the March Board of Review is made 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 completing and submitting a petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days of the July or December Board of Review's decision. More information on how to file an appeal is available by contacting the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Information can also be viewed on the Michigan Tax Tribunal's website at <https://www.michigan.gov/taxtribunal>.



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

RACHAEL EUBANKS  
STATE TREASURER

**Bulletin 3 of 2021**  
**February 9, 2021**  
**MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption**

**TO:** Assessors and Equalization Directors  
**FROM:** Michigan State Tax Commission  
**SUBJECT:** MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption

**Bulletin 6 of 2017 is rescinded.**

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 purposes of the poverty exemption "principal residence" means how principal residence exemption and qualified agricultural property are defined in MCL 211.7dd. The exemption does not apply to property of a corporation. This Bulletin includes updates made to MCL 211.7u by Public Act 253 of 2020.

**Local Unit Responsibilities**

MCL 211.7u requires local units to adopt guidelines that must include the specific income and asset levels of the applicant and the total household income and assets. If the local unit maintains a website, the local unit is required under the statute to make the policy, guidelines, and the poverty application (Form 5737) available to the public on the local unit's website. Additional items that the local unit should make available include the statutorily required Form 5739 (which must be filed by the applicant with Form 5737) and Form 4988, *Poverty Exemption Affidavit* (used by applicants who are not required to file federal and state income tax returns).

**Income Test**

Local units must adopt guidelines which specify the total household income which will be used to approve or deny poverty exemptions. The adopted income levels shall not be set lower than the federal poverty guidelines published in the prior calendar year in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. For reference, the federal poverty guidelines to be used are published annually by the State Tax Commission.



According to the United States Census Bureau "income" includes, but is not limited to:

- Money, wages, salaries before deductions, regular contributions from persons not living in the residence
- Net receipts from non-farm or farm self-employment (receipts from a person's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after business expense deductions)
- 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
- Private and governmental retirement and disability pensions, regular insurance, annuity payments
- College or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, assistantships
- Dividends, interest, and net income from rentals, royalties, estates, trusts, gambling or lottery winnings

The Michigan homestead property tax credit **cannot** be considered as income for purposes of the poverty exemption. (*Ferrero v Walton Twp, Court of Appeals No. 302221*).

### **Asset Test**

The local unit guidelines must include an asset test. This asset test must clearly state the maximum value of all assets allowable to be eligible for the poverty exemption. This means that the guidelines must state a total dollar amount and the value of all assets cannot exceed that total dollar amount.

The purpose of an asset test is to determine the resources available: cash, fixed assets or other property that could be converted to cash and used to pay property taxes in the year the poverty exemption is filed. The local unit asset test **cannot** include the value of the principal residence (*Robert Taylor v Sherman Twp, MTT Docket No. 236230*).

The local unit should require that applicants provide a list of all assets when applying for a poverty exemption. The State Tax Commission is providing the following list of assets that may be included in the local unit asset test (this is not an exhaustive list and is provided as examples of what may be considered as assets):

- A second home, land, vehicles
- Recreational vehicles such as campers, motor-homes, boats and ATV's
- Buildings other than the residence
- Jewelry, antiques, artworks
- Equipment, other personal property of value
- Bank accounts (over a specified amount), stocks
- Money received from the sale of property, such as, stocks, bonds, a house or car (unless a person is in the specific business of selling such property)
- Withdrawals of bank deposits and borrowed money
- Gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances and one-time insurance payments

- Food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms
- Federal non-cash benefits programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps and school lunches

The local unit policy may provide for an applicant to own possessions in addition to the principal residence and still receive a poverty exemption. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Additional vehicles
- More land than a minimum "footprint" for the home
- Equipment or other personal property of value, including recreational vehicles (campers, motor homes, boats, ATV's etc.)
- Bank account(s) (a maximum amount should be specified)

### **Full or Partial Poverty Exemptions**

PA 253 of 2020 made changes related to granting full or partial poverty exemptions. MCL 211.7u(5) states that if a person claiming the poverty exemption meets all eligibility requirements, the Board of Review shall grant the poverty exemption, in whole or in part, as follows:

1. A full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; or
2. A partial exemption equal to a 50% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; or
3. 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 reduction approved by the State Tax Commission. Local assessing units wishing to use any other percentage reduction than what is stated in MCL 211.7u(5) must obtain permission for use of such percentage reduction(s) by filing Form 5738, *Request for Approval of Percentage Reduction in Taxable Value for Poverty Exemptions Under MCL 211.7u* with the State Tax Commission. The State Tax Commission has adopted a Policy Regarding Requests for Percentage Reductions in Taxable Value For Poverty Exemptions Under MCL 211.7u that details how these requests will be processed. The policy and Form 5738 are available on the State Tax Commission's website at <https://www.michigan.gov/statetaxcommission>.

The State Tax Commission recommends that local assessing units include within their guidelines language and criteria for granting partial exemptions and/or minimum or maximum exemptions.

## **Extension Of Poverty Exemptions**

PA 253 of 2020 adds two provisions in which the local assessing unit can adopt a resolution that would allow a taxpayer to continue to receive a poverty exemption without having to file a new Form 5737 and other required documents each year. Local units **must** adopt resolutions to utilize these provisions and the requirements in the statute must be met.

### **MCL 211.7u(6): Extension for Those Persons Receiving a Fixed Income From Public Assistance**

Local units can adopt a resolution that allows an exemption granted in 2019 or 2020 to carry forward to 2021, 2022 and 2023 for those persons who receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases (Federal Supplemental Security Income, Social Security disability or retirement benefits).

Local units can also adopt a resolution for any new exemptions in 2021, 2022 or 2023 to remain exempt for up to 3 years for persons who receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases.

A person that receives an extended exemption under MCL 211.7u(6) must file an affidavit rescinding the exemption with the local assessing unit within 45 days after: 1) ceasing to own and occupy the property as a principal residence; or 2) a change in household assets or income that defeats eligibility for the poverty exemption. If the person fails to file the required rescission and the property is later determined to be ineligible for the exemption, the person is subject to repayment of any additional taxes with interest as provided in MCL 211.7u(6)(b).

### **MCL 211.7u(8): Extension Applicable to the 2021 Tax Year Only**

If the assessor determines that a person is still eligible for the poverty exemption in 2021 and the person received a poverty exemption for the property in tax year 2019 or 2020, or both, local assessing units can carry the poverty exemption forward for the 2021 tax year, without an application or protest to the Board of Review in 2021. **Local units must adopt a resolution by February 15, 2021 to carry the exemption forward.** If an exemption is carried forward to 2021 no Form 5737 or other documentation is required from the taxpayer and they do not have to protest to a Board of Review. However, the statute provides that the local assessing unit *may* require that the person affirm ownership, poverty, and occupancy status in writing by filing Form 5739.

### **Local Unit Audit Program Requirement**

Local units that adopt a resolution to extend the poverty exemption under MCL 211.7u(6) for up to 3 years for those persons who receive a fixed income solely from public assistance or local units that carry the 2019 and 2020 granted poverty exemptions forward to 2021 under MCL 211.7u(8) must implement an audit program. If found ineligible, the taxpayer is subject to repayment of the taxes plus interest as provided in MCL 211.7u(6)(b). The State Tax Commission's guidance on the required local unit audit program will be published in a separate bulletin.

## **How To Apply for The Poverty Exemption**

To request a poverty exemption, a taxpayer must file:

1. Form 5737 *Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption*
2. Form 5739 *Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty*
3. 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. **Do not file these forms 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 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 deadline dates for submission of the forms to ensure the application gets reviewed by a Board of Review during that calendar year.

In addition to filing Forms 5737 and 5739 and any supporting documentation, a taxpayer must do all 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 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.

## **Board of Review Responsibilities**

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 not permitted to deviate from the adopted policy and guidelines.

Poverty exemption applications can be heard at the March, July, or December Board of Review. However, there can only be **one** Board of Review decision for a specific calendar year; a subsequent Board of Review cannot reconsider a decision already made that year. For example: if an application is denied at the March Board of Review, it may not be reheard by the July or December Board of Review during the same calendar year. The taxpayer must file an appeal of the March Board of Review decision to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

As a reminder, a person who files a claim for the poverty exemption is not prohibited from also appealing the assessment on the same property in the same year.

## **Appeal Rights**

An appeal of a decision of the March Board of Review is made 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 completing and submitting a petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days of the July or December Board of Review's decision. More information on how to file an appeal is available by contacting the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Information can also be viewed on the Michigan Tax Tribunal's website at <https://www.michigan.gov/taxtribunal>.