

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>.

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	
☐ 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.					
☐ Check if you own, or are buying, other property. If checked, complete the information below.				Amount of Income Earned from other Property	
1	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code	
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid	
2	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code	
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid	

PART 4: EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION — List your current employment information.

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

PART 5: INCOME SOURCES

List all income sources, including but not limited to: salaries, Social Security, rents, pensions, IRAs (individual retirement accounts), unemployment compensation, disability, government pensions, worker's compensation, dividends, claims and judgments from lawsuits, alimony, child support, friend or family contribution, reverse mortgage, or any other source of income, for all persons residing at the property.

Source of Income	Monthly or Annual Income (indicate which)

PART 6: CHECKING, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT INFORMATION

List any and all savings owned by all household members, including but not limited to: checking accounts, savings accounts, postal savings, credit union shares, certificates of deposit, cash, stocks, bonds, or similar investments, for all persons residing at the property.

Name of Financial Institution or Investments	Amount on Deposit	Current Interest Rate	Name on Account	Value of Investment

PART 7: LIFE INSURANCE — List all policies held by all household members.

Name of Insured	Amount of Policy	Monthly Payments	Policy Paid in Full	Name of Beneficiary	Relationship to Insured

PART 8: MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION

All motor vehicles (including motorcycles, motor homes, camper trailers, etc.) held or owned by any person residing within the household must be listed.

Make	Year	Monthly Payment	Balance Owed

Continue on Page 3

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

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) ☐ City ☐ Township ☐ 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.)			
☐ I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
☐ 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.			
☐ 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)			
☐ Approved ☐ 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	

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

Poverty Guidelines Resolution for Raisinville Township for the 2025 Assessment Year
Resolution# 181

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

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons who, in the judgment 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 of 1994 and Public Act 253 of 2020 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994 and PA 253 of 2020, Raisinville Township, Monroe County 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 levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the immediately preceding year;

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

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principle residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim 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 an applicant or other person residing in the home is not required by law to file federal and/or state income tax forms, the attached affidavit must be completed and submitted with the application, (Form #4988).**
- 3) Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification *if requested*.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested *if requested*.
- 5) As required by PA 390 of 1994 AND PA 253 of 2020, all guidelines for poverty exemptions as established by the governing body of the local assessing unit SHALL also include an asset level test. The applicant's assets may not exceed \$50,000. The following assets shall not be considered when applying an asset test to determine qualification for tax exemption;
 - i. The value of the applicant's primary residence subject to the exemption.
 - ii. The value of all personal property, such as furniture and clothing.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget. **See Exhibit A**
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, 2024 but before the day prior to the last day of board of review.

8) 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 (See Exhibit A):

- For applicants at or below the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 100% relief shall be granted.
- For applicants between 100% and 115% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 75% relief shall be granted.
- For applicants between 115% and 130% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 50% relief shall be granted.
- For applicants between 130% and 145% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 25% relief shall be granted.
- For applicants above 145% of the 2025 Federal Poverty Guidelines, 0% relief shall be granted.

Applications may be reviewed by the Board of Review without the applicant being present. However, the Board may request that any or all applicants be physically present to respond, under oath, to answer any questions the Board may have.

The following are the federal poverty income standards which the United States Office of Management and Budget recommends that federal departments and agencies use. The standards are actually compiled and published by the Bureau of the Census which refers to them as "poverty thresholds."

EXHIBIT A

FEDERAL POVERTY INCOME STANDARDS FOR 2025 ASSESSMENTS The following are the federal poverty income standards as of December 31, 2024 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2025 assessments.

Size of Family Unit	2025 Poverty Guidelines 100% Relief	2025 Poverty Guidelines 75% Relief Greater than 100% but equal to or less than 115% of Federal Guidelines	2025 Poverty Guidelines 50% Relief Greater than 115% but equal to or less than 130% of Federal Guidelines	2025 Poverty Guidelines 25% Relief Greater than 130% but equal to or less than 145% of Federal Guidelines
1	\$15,060	\$17,319	\$19,578	\$21,837
2	\$20,440	\$23,506	\$26,572	\$29,638
3	\$25,820	\$29,693	\$33,566	\$37,439
4	\$31,200	\$35,880	\$40,560	\$45,240
5	\$36,580	\$42,067	\$47,554	\$53,041
6	\$41,960	\$48,254	\$54,548	\$60,842
7	\$47,340	\$54,441	\$61,542	\$68,643
8	\$52,720	\$60,628	\$68,536	\$76,444

For Each Additional Person	\$5,380	\$6,187	\$6,994	\$7,801
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY 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 Trustee Jaworski and

supported by Board Member Clerk Fetterly.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted "Aye:" Supervisor Blanchette, Treasurer Meyer, Trustee Jaworski, Trustee Woolmer, Clerk Fetterly
"Nay:"

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The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Brenda K. Fetterly
Clerk

I, Brenda Fetterly, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Raisinville 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 January 7th 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.

Brenda K. Fetterly
Clerk