

TOWNSHIP OF BANGOR POVERTY EXEMPTION POLICY

Pursuant to MCL 211.7u, the Township of Bangor adopts the following policy for the granting of poverty exemptions in the Township of Bangor.

1. To be eligible for a poverty exemption, a person must do all of the following on an annual basis:
 - a. Be an owner of and occupy a property as a principal residence property for which an exemption is requested.
("principal residence" means principal residence or qualified agricultural property as defined in MCL 211.7dd.)
 - b. All applicants must fill out an application form supplied by the Township of Bangor, in its entirety, and return it the Supervisor or Board of Review. The applicant must sign the application in the presence of a Notary Public commissioned by the State of Michigan.
 - c. Produce a valid Driver's license or other form of identification to 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.
 - e. Meet the income and asset standards set forth in this policy.
2. All applicants and other persons residing in the homestead must submit the following documents for the tax year immediately preceding the year or in the current year for which the poverty exemption is requested:
 - a. Federal Income Tax Return;
 - b. Michigan Income Tax Return;
 - c. Michigan Homestead Property Tax Return;
 - d. Statement from Social Security Administration and/or Michigan Social Services as to monies paid to the applicant or other persons residing in the homestead.
 - e. Signed authorization(s) to allow the Township to obtain copies of tax returns from the IRS and State of Michigan.
3. Income Test. All applicants must meet federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.

4. Asset Test. All applicants must also meet all of the following asset requirements:
 - a. Cash assets for the total household may not exceed 20% of the federal poverty guidelines for each family size.
 - b. The non-cash assets of the household shall not exceed \$5,000 in value. The following assets are excluded from this limit:
 - Applicant's household personal property
 - One vehicle used for personal transportation and one additional vehicle for each gainfully employed person in the household.
 - Assets not accessible by the applicant or member of the household.
 - Farm implements and equipment used to actively cultivate qualified agricultural property.

For purposes of this paragraph, the Board of Review shall consider the value of the assets and shall not reduce such value any indebtedness owed on such assets, or indebtedness otherwise owed by the applicant.

5. The application and all requested documents must be returned to the Supervisor or Board of Review no later than:
 - March 1 - for action by the March Board of Review
 - July 1 - for action by the July Board of Review
 - December 1 - for action by the December Board of Review
6. The Board of Review will consider the effect of all Michigan Income Tax Credits the applicant receives or can receive. Credits include, but not limited to, Homestead Property Tax Credits, Senior Citizen Prescription Drug Credits and Home Heating Credits. If the applicant could receive a refund of more than 50% of the real estate taxes through these Credits, the application shall be denied.
7. The Board of Review will consider all revenue and non-revenue producing assets of the owner, co-owner, and all members of the household. Any attempt to hide and/or shift income and/or assets to another person, business or corporation shall be grounds for immediate denial.
8. Applicants will be sent a written notice of the Board's final decision. An applicant may appeal the Board's decision to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
9. Passage of amendments to this policy will rescind any previous poverty exemption policies and Resolution #19-012.

ADOPTED: May 14, 2019 via Resolution #19-012
AMENDED: July 12, 2022