

## MILLINGTON TOWNSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION

In order to be eligible for the poverty exemption, the claimant must do and meet all of the following requirements on an annual basis:

### REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicant *must* own and occupy as a homestead the property for which the exemption is requested. The applicant *must* also produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification showing place of residence.
2. The applicant *must* file form 5737, Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption and form 5739, Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty, with the board of review as provided by the Millington Township Office. It must be received between January 1 of each year and the day prior to the last scheduled meeting day of the Board of Review for that year. **Note:** The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
3. Applicant *must* provide federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead including any property tax credit returns. These income tax returns may be those filed in the current year or in the immediately preceding year. Any additional information regarding the poverty application must be in writing and attached to the petition form (**Note:** If an applicant is not required to file a federal or state income tax return then they must show proof of income and file the attached affidavit (Form 4988) for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state tax returns for the current or preceding tax year).
4. The applicant must produce a deed, land contract or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested to support the information provided on the Poverty Petition, if requested by the Assessor or Board of Review.
5. An applicant must meet the federal poverty guidelines for the total household income as 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, as attached. 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

6. Meet the asset level test, which is established to be: The claimant's and household's total assets, excluding the principal residence, do not exceed Four Thousand dollars (\$4,000) for an individual applicant or Six Thousand dollars (\$6,000) per household. Applicants must provide a list of all assets when applying for the poverty exemption. Assets include, but are not limited to:
  - 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 Page 3 • 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.
  - Assets not to be included in the above asset test are:
    - The value of all furniture, clothing, and other ordinary household items.
    - The first Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000) of the market value (as established by Kelly Blue Book) of a motor vehicle.
7. The Poverty Exemption applicant must provide additional relevant documentation if requested by the Assessor or Board of Review in order to fully investigate an application.

## **GUIDELINES FOR GRANTING 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: 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 for the year in which the exemption is granted.

Poverty Exemptions must be processed annually. Under no circumstances will a poverty exemption be extended for a subsequent year without renewal of the poverty petition.