

## GUIDELINE RESOLUTION FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township Board;  
and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Supervisor/Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 253 of 2020 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 253 of 2020, the Township of Home, Montcalm 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 income tax returns, filed in the current or 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 principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a Michigan Department of Treasury Forms 5737 & 5739 Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption (Exhibit C) with the supervisor/assessor or Board of Review. Application must be 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 or a Michigan Department of Treasury Form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the assets of all persons do not exceed the current asset guidelines as established in Exhibit B. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Produce the additional following information before the Board of Review will act on a poverty exemption application:
  - Federal Income Tax Return (use Form 4988 if not filing income taxes)
  - State Income Tax Return (use Form 4988 if not filing income taxes)
  - Full year of bank account statements
  - Proof of monthly/yearly income
  - Full year of electric bill copies
  - Full year of heating bill copies
  - Full year of garbage bill copies
  - Full year of cable bill copies
  - Full year of internet bill copies
  - Documentation of food stamp/bridge card payments
  - Any other monthly bill copies

7) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services OR by alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines. Alternative guidelines are set forth in Exhibit A.

8) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. A copy of this application is set forth in Exhibit C, also known as Michigan Department of Treasury Form 5737 and Form 5739.

The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. See Exhibit A for the federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

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 \_\_\_\_\_(Township Board Member).

\_\_\_\_\_and supported by Township Board

Member\_\_\_\_\_. Upon roll call vote, the following  
voted: "Aye":

\_\_\_\_\_ "Nay":

\_\_\_\_\_ The

Township Clerk declared the resolution\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

### **Exhibit A**

#### **2025 Poverty Exemption Guidelines – Home Township, Montcalm County**

(To be used for 2025 applicants per State Tax Commission)

#### **INCOME GUIDELINES**

Size of Household	U.S. Federal Income Poverty Guidelines	Home Township Income Poverty Guidelines
1	\$15,060	\$15,060
2	\$20,440	\$20,440
3	\$25,820	\$25,820
4	\$31,200	\$31,200
5	\$36,580	\$36,580
6	\$41,960	\$41,960
7	\$47,340	\$47,340
8	\$52,720	\$52,720
Each Additional Person		\$5,380

\*Income includes, but is not limited to income from employment, Social Security benefits, Veterans benefits, worker's compensation, unemployment benefits, income from renters or boarders, farm income, alimony or child support, farm income, etc.

**Proof of income must be included in the application.**

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### **Exhibit B**

#### **ASSET TEST**

Home Township has adopted the following maximum asset standards for the **2025** year. The asset levels do not include the value of your homestead property.

Size of Household	Total Value of Assets (Adopted by Home Township 2025)
1	\$25,000
2	\$30,000
3	\$45,000
4	\$50,000
5	\$55,000
6	\$60,000
7	\$65,000
8	\$70,000

\*Assets include, but are not limited to stocks, bonds, vehicles (allowed one primary vehicle), boats, campers, farm equipment, motorcycles, trailers, real estate other than the primary residence, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA), uncashed checks, money held by others, gaming/lottery winnings, federal non-cash benefit programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, etc.

### PARTIAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

A partial poverty exemption is an exemption of only a part of the taxable value of the property rather than the entire taxable value. Home Township Board of Review has the authority to grant a full 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. As of 2025, no other percentage reduction in taxable value has been approved for Home Township to utilize. Thus:

A full 100% exemption for any applicant that is at or below the above-mentioned income and/or asset test threshold.

A 75% exemption of taxable value for any applicant that is \$0.01 to \$2,500 over the above-mentioned income and/or asset test threshold.

A 50% exemption of taxable value for any applicant that is \$2,501 to \$3,200 over the above-mentioned income and/or asset test threshold.

A 25% exemption of taxable value for any applicant that is \$3,201 to \$4,500 over the above-mentioned income and/or asset test threshold.