

TOWNSHIP OF TUSCOLA POVERTY EXEMPTION POLICY

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

1. To be eligible for a poverty exemption, a person must do all of the following on an annual basis:
 - a. File **annually** a completed Michigan State Tax Commission approved application for the poverty exemption (Form 5737) and a Poverty Exemption Affidavit, Form 4988, if applicable to the Board of Review at least one day prior to the last day of the March, July, or December Board of Review. Although addressed to the Board of Review, the application must be submitted to the Township Assessor for purposes of review and record keeping.
Application for poverty exemption must be complete and contain accurate information, or the application will not be considered by the Board of Review.
 - b. 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.)
 - 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.
3. Income Test. All applicants must not exceed 15% more than the 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 10% 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 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.
6. 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.

Please be aware that as an applicant for a Poverty Exemption, you must also comply with the following section of the Michigan Compiled Laws relative to General Property Tax:

Section 211.118 provides "Any person who, under any of the proceedings required or permitted by this act shall willfully swear falsely, shall be guilty of perjury and subject to penalties."

Be it 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 **Fackler** and supported by Board Member **Hicks**.*

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Michelle Hicks
Clerk

I, Michelle Hicks, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Tuscola Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the township at the regular meeting of said board held on May 21, 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.

Michelle Hicks
Clerk