

OFFICE USE ONLY (Date Stamp)

City of Farmington

2026

# Poverty/Hardship Exemption Application

OFFICE USE ONLY

NAME:

PARCEL NUMBER:



# 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. All required additional documentation (such as federal/state income tax returns)

Form 5737 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 Form 5737 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.

### **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>.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF OAKLAND

CITY OF FARMINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 12-23-034

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING A POLICY  
RELATIVE TO THE REVIEW AND GRANTING OF POVERTY EXEMPTIONS BY  
THE CITY OF FARMINGTON BOARD OF REVIEW.**

At the meeting of the City Council of the City of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, held on the 18th day of December, 2023, at the City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan 48335.

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Schneemann and seconded by Councilmember Balk:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended, specifically MCL 211.7u, the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges is eligible for exemption from taxation; and,

**WHEREAS**, P.A. 390 of 1994, which amended Section 7u of Act No. 206 of the Public Acts of 1893, as amended by Act No. 313 of the Public Acts of 1993, being sections 211.7u of the Michigan Compiled Laws, requires that the governing body of the local assessing unit determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines used by the Board of Review in granting reductions in property assessments due to limited income and assets, referred to as "poverty exemptions."

**WHEREAS**, PA 191 amends the poverty exemption to allow local units to grant a 75% partial exemption, in addition to the previously allowed 100%, 50%, and 25%, without prior approval by the State Tax Commission; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that to be eligible for a poverty exemption in the City of Farmington,

An applicant must own and occupy as a principal residence the property for which the exemption is requested. An applicant who is receiving medical care outside the primary residence for an extended period of time can be granted an exemption as long as there is the intent and possibility that the applicant will return to the subject residence.

The subject property must be classified as an "improved single family residential" or "residential condominium" property with a valid Homeowner's Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) currently in effect.

The applicant or applicants must complete and timely file an application requesting a poverty exemption on a form prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application with all supporting and required documentation must be filed after January 1 but not later than the day prior to the last day of the Board of Review.

The applicant must include with the application a copy of all of the previous year's income tax returns that the applicant was required to file (Federal Income Tax Return, Michigan Income Tax Return and the Michigan Property Tax Credit Form, etc.) Copies of the previous year's income tax returns must be supplied for all persons living in the subject residence. All new applicants and other applicants, when requested by the Board, must provide copies of all income tax filings for the three previous years.

The applicant must supply a copy of a current driver's license or other form of identification.

The Board of Review can request any other additional information or documents that the Board may deem necessary to make a determination.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the applicant's total household income cannot exceed two (2) times the most current Federal Poverty Guidelines from the prior tax year poverty income figure, as reported by household size, in the "Federal Poverty Guidelines" updated annually in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as established by the State Tax Commission-to be updated annually.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the total value of the assets of the applicant and each member of the applicant's household, combined, shall not exceed four (4) times the most current Federal Poverty Guidelines from the prior tax year poverty income figure, as reported by household size excluding the property for which the exemption is requested and the principal vehicle for each driver, BUT including all other property. Property shall include, but is not limited to: cash, savings, stocks, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, insurance commodities, coin collections, boats, jewelry, art, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, second homes, cottages or any other saleable real property or other tangible items.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a poverty exemption is granted for one year only and must be applied for and reviewed annually based on the applicant's current situation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the applicant(s) and all those living in the applicant's household who are submitting tax returns and related financial documents must sign a Waiver of Confidentiality prior to the Board discussing the

request for a poverty exemption in which the applicant(s) and others consent to the examination and discussion of the applicant's application and all supporting documentation by the Board of Review members in a public meeting format.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that meeting income level guidelines does not guarantee 100% exemption. At their discretion, the Board may grant a 100%, 75%, 50% or 25% reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that to conform with the provisions of P.A. 390 of 1994, this resolution is hereby given immediate effect and will stay in effect for subsequent years until amended or voided.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all prior Resolutions adopting policies for the Granting of Poverty Exemptions are hereby repealed and/or rescinded.

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Balk, LaRussa, Parkins, Schneemann, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: None

I, Meaghan Bachman, the duly appointed Clerk of The City of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the City of Farmington, City Council at a meeting held on December 18, 2023 at which time a quorum was present.

  
Meaghan Bachman, City Clerk

# 2026 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

## US Department of Health & Human Services

	INCOME	ASSETS
Size of Family Unit	2 x Poverty Guidelines	4 x Poverty Guidelines
1	\$ 31,300	\$ 62,600
2	\$ 42,300	\$ 84,600
3	\$ 53,300	\$106,600
4	\$ 64,300	\$128,600
5	\$ 75,300	\$150,600
6	\$ 86,300	\$172,600
7	\$ 97,300	\$194,600
8	\$108,300	\$216,600
For Each Additional Person	\$11,000	\$ 22,000

## Application and Affirmation 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 where the property is located in each year on or after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review. Poverty Exemptions may be heard by the Board of Review during its March, July, and December sessions.

**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
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 Identification Number		Name of Mortgage Company		
Unpaid Balance Owed on Principal Residence	Monthly Payment	Length of Time at this Residence		
Property Description				
PART 3: AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP, OCCUPANCY, AND INCOME STATUS (Check all boxes that apply.)				
<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed.				
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.				
PART 4: ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION				
List information related to any other property owned by you or any member residing in the household.				
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 5: EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION** — List your current employment information.

Name of Employer

Address of Employer

City

State

ZIP Code

Contact Person

Employer Telephone Number

**PART 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 9: 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

**PART 10: 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 11: PERSONAL DEBT** — List all personal debt for all household members.

Creditor	Purpose of Debt	Date of Debt	Original Balance	Monthly Payment	Balance Owed

**PART 12: 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)	

**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 13: 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 14: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION (Complete if applicable.)

Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code

### PART 15: 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
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**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 30 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  
Email: [taxtrib@michigan.gov](mailto:taxtrib@michigan.gov)

## 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

**BOARD OF REVIEW**  
**POVERTY EXEMPTION CLAIM**  
**WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

**Parcel Number :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Address :** \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby consent to the examination of copies of my tax returns and related financial documents, including but not limited to those listed below, as requested by the members of the Board of Review.

Federal Income Tax Return  
Michigan Income Tax Return  
W-2 or 1099 Forms  
Senior Citizens Homestead Property Tax Form MI-1040CR -lr  
General Homestead Property Tax Claim MI-1040CR - 4  
Statement from Social Security Administration and/or  
Michigan Social Services

Furthermore, I consent to the discussion of the information contained in my tax returns and related financial documents at a duly convened public meeting of the Board of Review. By signing this Waiver of Confidentiality, I understand and acknowledge that I am forever giving up any and all possible claims I may have relative to the disclosure of information contained in said tax returns and related financial documents, which claims may arise pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 6103, and/or any other federal, state, or local statute or regulation.

I have read this document in its entirety and sign this document of my own free will.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner & Primary Applicant

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Co-resident of Property

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Co-resident of Property

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

<b>PART 1: OWNER INFORMATION</b> — Enter information for the person owning and occupying the residence.			
Owner Name		Owner Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
<b>PART 2: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION</b> (Complete if applicable.)			
Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
<b>PART 3: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY INFORMATION</b> — Enter information for property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
City or Township (check the appropriate box and enter name) <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> 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
<b>PART 4: AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP, OCCUPANCY, AND INCOME STATUS</b> (Check all boxes that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.			
<b>PART 5: CERTIFICATION</b>			
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	
<b>Designee must attach a letter of authority.</b>			
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE ONLY (DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied (Attach appeal instructions and provide to owner.)		Tax Year(s) exemption will be posted to tax roll	
<b>CERTIFICATION</b> — 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	