

# Redford Township Application for Poverty Exemption

## GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION – 2021

- If granted an exemption, it is for the current year only. If your situation warrants an exemption in years following, a new application must be submitted for review. The Poverty exemption is meant to be a temporary form of assistance.
- Per, MCL 211.7u(3), the application for consideration must be received by the Assessor's Office at least one day prior to the last session of the Board of Review. Board of Review dates are posted annually and may also be found at [www.redfordtwp.com](http://www.redfordtwp.com) or by calling (313) 387-2729. This application can be made by mail, if received one day prior to the last session of the Board of Review.
- The application must be filled out in its entirety and all requested documentation must be attached. If an area does not apply to the applicant, "N/A" must be used. If the application is not complete or requested documentation is not included, the Board of Review will deny the exemption. All pages included with this application must be returned when the application is submitted for review.
- Per MCL 211.7u(7), a person who files a claim for Poverty exemption IS NOT prohibited from also appealing the assessment on the property to the Board of Review in the same year.

### **Required Documentation to be Attached to Poverty Exemption Application**

- Per MCL 211.7u(2)(b), federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence must be included with the application including any property tax credit returns. The tax returns may be from the current or preceding tax year. If any person in the household is not required to file federal or state tax returns, the included affidavit, form 4988, must be completed by each person that does not file taxes.
- The most recent statement for all bank accounts, investments, IRAs, CDs, 401Ks, money market, annuities, etc. The statement submitted must be complete with no missing pages and submitted for all persons residing in the home.
- Proof of income/assets from the Social Security Administration, Veterans Administration, Medicare, Medicaid, Bridge Card, W-2 Forms, Pension Benefit Statements, Interest & Dividend Income Statements, Unemployment or Workmen's Compensation Benefit Statements, Child Support Documentation, Alimony Documentation, and any College/University scholarships for all persons residing in the home.
- The most recent mortgage statement of the primary residence under review, including any reverse mortgages.
- If primary residence being sought for exemption was purchased within the past two years of this application, homeowner's closing statements must be submitted with application. If a mortgage was obtained, a copy of the 'Uniform Residential Loan Application' is required.

### **Common Reasons for Denial of Poverty Exemption Application**

Below are common reasons (but not an exhaustive list) of why a claim for Poverty Exemption is denied:

- Failure to fill out all areas of the application, including "N/A" in areas not applicable to the applicant or signing the application.
- Failure to include State and Federal Income taxes or property tax credit returns for current or one preceding year for all persons residing in the home. ***Please note that the property tax credit returns are required to be filed with this application. Property tax credit returns (such as Michigan 1040CR) can still be filed with the State of Michigan even if the applicant does not file income taxes.***
- Failure to include complete banking/investment account and mortgage statements for all persons residing in the home. All pages must be submitted.

## **INCOME GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION**

*This amount published annually by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services*

<b><u>Number in Family</u></b>	<b><u>Income</u></b>
1 member	\$ 12,760
2 members	\$ 17,240
3 members	\$ 21,720
4 members	\$ 26,200
5 members	\$ 30,680
6 members	\$ 35,160
7 members	\$ 39,640
8 members	\$ 44,120
For each additional person	\$ 4,480

### **According to the US Census Bureau, "income" includes:**

- Money, wages, and salaries before any deductions
- Net receipts from non-farm self-employment. (These are receipts from a person's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after deductions for business expenses.)
- Net receipts from farm self-employment. (The same provisions as above for self-employment.)
- Regular payments from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment, worker's compensation, veteran's payments and public assistance.
- Alimony, child support, and military family allotments.
- Private pensions, governmental pensions, and regular insurance or annuity payments.
- College or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, and assistantships.
- Dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings.

## **ASSET LEVEL GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION**

*The Asset Level does not include the primary residence for which exemption is being sought. It does include, but is not limited to:*

- A second home, additional land not associated with the primary residence, or other buildings other than the primary residence being sought for exemption.
- Vehicles and other recreational vehicles such as motor homes, campers, ATVs, boats, and motorcycles.
- Jewelry, antiques, artwork, equipment, and other personal property of value.
- Bank accounts, stocks, bonds, and investments. This also includes the money received from the sale of stocks, bonds, investments, cars, and houses unless a person is in the specific business of selling such property.
- Withdrawals of bank accounts and borrowed money.
- Gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, and one-time insurance payments.
- 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.
- The total interest income in all accounts (checking, savings, CDs, IRAs, 401ks, money market, annuities, etc.)
- The applicant shall not have ownership interest in any real estate other than the primary residence being considered for exemption.

Maximum total allowed liquid assets, specifically amounts in banking/investment accounts may not exceed the amount of projected 2021 taxes PLUS 50% for the entire household. Other assets may not exceed the qualifying amount for poverty exemption. See above for what is considered an asset.

**Poverty Exemption Worksheet**  
**Copy Provided to Applicant After Board of Review Meeting**

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

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Board of Review Use Only - Do Not Write Below This Line**

**Staff - Initial next to all requirements as it relates to the application/applicant.**

Does the applicant appear as taxpayer of record of property in question?	Yes _____	No _____
If not, has documentation proving ownership been provided?	Yes _____	No _____
Are all areas on the application complete with either an answer or "N/A"?	Yes _____	No _____
Are all pages of the guidelines/application included with the applicants submission?	Yes _____	No _____
Does the applicant reside at the property in question?	Yes _____	No _____
Are copies of the Federal and State income tax returns and property tax credits forms for the current of preceding year attached for all persons residing in the household?	Yes _____	No _____
If not, is the affidavit stating the person is not required to file income taxes completed?	Yes _____	No _____
If home was purchased within in past 2 years of date of this application, is closing statements provided?	Yes _____	No _____
Is a copy of the most current mortgage statement, including a reverse mortgage if applicable, attached?	Yes _____	No _____
Are copies of the most recent bank/investment statements for all residing in the household attached with all pages included?	Yes _____	No _____

a.	<b>Taxable value on roll</b>	\$ _____	
b.	<b>Number of people in household</b>	_____	
c.	<b>Total household income from information provided</b>	\$ _____	
d.	<b>Income limit based on number of people in household as established by guidelines</b>	\$ _____	
e.	<b>Total assets of household</b>	\$ _____	
f.	<b>Does applicant meet all asset and income guidelines as established?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	If no, reason must be provided by the Board of Review below.
g.	<b>If yes, multiply line "a" by 50% (0.50)</b>	\$ _____	
_____ Appeal Denied			_____ Reduction Granted
		<b><u>Taxable Value</u></b>	
_____ 1. Does not qualify based on guidelines		As on Roll	\$ _____
_____ 2. Application not complete, missing information			
_____ 3. Did not furnish proper documentation		Revised	\$ _____
_____ 4. Other: _____			
_____			
Initials of Board Members:			Date: _____