

**POLICY AND GUIDELINES  
FOR GRANTING POVERTY EXEMPTIONS  
FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF THOMPSON,  
SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY, STATE OF MICHIGAN**

The homestead, also defined as principal residence exemption or qualified agriculture of persons who, in the judgment of the Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under P.A.390 of 1994.

To be eligible for exemption a person shall do ALL of the following on an annual basis.

1. Applicants must be the owners of the property and reside therein on December 31 of the previous year.
2. File application with the Board of Review on the forms provided by the local assessing unit.
3. Applicants must submit federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year and in the current year. A taxpayer who appealed at one Board of Review may not appeal at a later Board of Review for the same year. If denied by the Board of Review, you may appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
4. Current on all prior year tax bills. Foreclosure, or sale of property rescinds the poverty exemption on property. Tax bills will be generated at time of sale for full tax year exemption in place.
5. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested by the Board of Review.
6. Produce a deed, land contract or other evidence of ownership of the property if requested by the Board of Review.
7. Meet the federal poverty guidelines established annually by the State of Michigan, State Tax Commission. Meet the asset level test set by the local assessing unit.
8. The Board of Review shall follow the policy and guidelines of the local assessing unit in granting or denying an exemption under this section unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and guidelines and the substantial and compelling reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.
9. A person who files a claim under this section is not prohibited from also appealing the assessment on the property for which the claim is made before the Board of Review in the same year.

I \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the Township of Thompson policy and guidelines for granting poverty exemptions.

**TOWNSHIP OF THOMPSON  
RESIDENTIAL POVERTY EXEMPTION APPLICATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being the owner and resident of the property listed below, desire to appeal for tax relief under section 211 .7u of the Michigan General Property Tax Act 390 of 1994: "The homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the board of review by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charge is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under this act. This section does not apply to the property of a corporation".

Name of Applicants:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel Index No \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Did you apply for homestead property tax credit? \_\_\_\_\_ How much was credit \_\_\_\_\_

Real Estate: Is the home paid in full? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, balance due \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Payment \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you lived at address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Mortgage Company \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own, or are you buying other property? If so, list below:

Property address      Parcel Number      Assessed Value      Date Last Taxes Paid

Name of Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

List all income: Salaries, non-farm, self-employment, social security, railroad retirement, unemployment, workers compensation, strike benefits, public assistance, alimony, child support, military family allotments, any pensions, scholarships, grants, fellowships and assistantships, dividends, interest, rental, royalties, estates or trusts, gambling or lottery winnings, assistants with general relief. List on separate sheet if needed.

Bank accounts and savings: List all bank/credit union accounts owned by applicants

Name of Institution      Current Deposit      Name on Acc't.      Account No.

List all stocks, bonds, land contracts owned by applicants:

**TOWNSHIP OF THOMSPON  
RESIDENTIAL POVERTY EXEMPTION APPLICATION**

Life insurance policy held by you and members of the household:

Motor vehicles include make, year, monthly payment, balance due and lien holder:

List all persons living in household:

Name	Age	Relationship	Working	Monthly Contribution
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Personal Debts: what do you owe?

To Whom	For What	Date of Debt	Original Amount	Monthly Payment
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List all other assets owned or controlled by household: Example boats, coin collection, art, antiques, silver or gold.

If there is any further information that you would want to add, do so here:

**DO NOT SIGN** until witnessed by the Assessor.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand all necessary documents to apply for a poverty exemption for the Township of Thomspen. I understand any willful misstatements or misrepresentations made on this form may constitute perjury, which under the law, is a felony punishable by a fine or imprisonment. The undersigned being duly sworn deposes and says that the statements made in the foregoing application are true and that he/she has no money, income or property other than that mentioned herein.

Applicant Signatures:

Acknowledged before me in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Michigan, on

\_\_\_\_\_ date.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date

**TOWNSHIP OF THOMPSON  
RESIDENTIAL POVERTY EXEMPTION APPLICATION**

**C. Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions for 2017.**

MCL 211.7u, which deals with poverty exemptions, was significantly altered by PA 390 of 1994 and was further amended by PA 620 of 2002.

Local governing bodies are required to adopt guidelines that set income levels for their poverty exemption guidelines and those income levels shall not be set lower by a city or township than the federal poverty guidelines updated annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This means, for example, that the income level for a household of 3 persons shall not be set lower than \$20,160 which is the amount shown on the following chart for a family of 3 persons. The income level for a family of 3 persons may be set higher than \$20,160.

Following are the federal poverty guidelines for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2017 assessments.

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$ 11,880
2	\$ 16,020
3	\$ 20,160
4	\$ 24,300
5	\$ 28,440
6	\$ 32,580
7	\$ 36,730
8	\$ 40,890
For each additional person	\$ 4,160

Note: PA 390 of 1994 (see State Tax Commission Bulletin 14 of 2014) states that the poverty exemption guidelines established by the governing body of the local assessing unit **SHALL** also include an asset level test. An asset test means the amount of cash, fixed assets or other property that could be used, or converted to cash for use in the payment of property taxes. The asset test should calculate a maximum amount permitted and all other assets above that amount should be considered as available.

**TOWNSHIP OF THOMPSON  
RESIDENTIAL POVERTY EXEMPTION APPLICATION**

**Asset Ratio Test for Poverty Exemption**

Cash on Hand \_\_\_\_\_

Cash in Bank

Checking \_\_\_\_\_

Saving \_\_\_\_\_

Bonds \_\_\_\_\_  
Stock \_\_\_\_\_

401K \_\_\_\_\_

Pension \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Auto Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ Miles \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ Miles \_\_\_\_\_

4-Wheeler Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ Miles \_\_\_\_\_

Snowmobile Year \_\_\_\_\_ Make/Model \_\_\_\_\_ Miles \_\_\_\_\_

Property Value \_\_\_\_\_

Other Property Value \_\_\_\_\_

Net Asset's not to exceed \$ 57,350 for 2017 tax year.

Other Property \_\_\_\_\_