

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 the purposes of the poverty exemption, the term "principal residence" has the same meaning as the term's principal residence exemption and qualified agricultural property as defined in MCL 211.7dd. The exemption does not apply to property owned by a corporation.

How To Apply For The Poverty Exemption

To request a poverty exemption, a taxpayer must file:

1. Form 5737 Application and Affirmation 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 this form with the Department of Treasury or the State Tax Commission.** The form 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 submission deadlines to ensure that their application is 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 of 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's 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.

6. Meet the asset level test adopted by the local assessing unit.

Appeal Rights

An appeal of a decision made by the March Board of Review must be filed 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 filing a petition with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days of the Board of Review's decision. Additional information on how to file an appeal is available by contacting the Michigan Tax Tribunal or by visiting its website at <https://www.michigan.gov/taxtribunal>.

CHECK LIST

2026 POVERTY EXEMPTION ATTACHMENTS

(Please submit copies only – not originals)

THE COMPLETED CHECK LIST MUST BE RETURNED WITH THE POVERTY EXEMPTION APPLICATION

Note: Provide copies of the following as proof for **all occupants living in the home** even if not contributing to household income or expenses.

_____ Timely filed and fully complete & signed:

_____ Form 5737 Poverty Exemption Application & Affirmation per MCL 211.7u

_____ Form 4988 Poverty Exemption Affidavit

_____ Copies of 2025 Federal Income Tax Return and Michigan Income Tax Return

_____ Copies of 2025 Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim (MI-1040CR)

_____ Copies of 2025 W-2 Forms, Social Security Statements (SSA-1099), Disability Statement or similar income verification for all household members

_____ Copies of statements from additional income sources including unemployment, alimony, child support, ADC, Food Stamps, scholarships, grants, etc.

_____ Copies of statements for checking account, savings account, certificate of deposit (CD), stocks, bonds, pension (IRA, 401, etc.) account or any other asset/retirement account

_____ Copies of valid State of Michigan Driver License

_____ Copy of proof of property ownership (Deed, Land Contract, etc.)

_____ Copy of 2025 mortgage/equity loan payment verification showing the current loan balance and principal and interest payment amounts.

_____ Completed Applicant Certification Form

_____ Completed Waiver of Confidentiality Form

_____ Petition to Board of Review

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			
<p>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.</p>			
<p><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</p>			
PART 14: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION (Complete if applicable.)			
Legal Designee Name			Daytime Telephone Number
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 15: CERTIFICATION			
<p>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.</p>			
Printed Name	Signature	Date	

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

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

SCIO TOWNSHIP
APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

Please initial EACH applicable statement:

____ I/We declare that the statements made herein are complete, true, and correct to the best of my/our knowledge. Any willful misstatements or misrepresentations made on this form may constitute perjury, which, under the law, is a felony punishable by fine or imprisonment.

____ I/We also understand that this application will be **DENIED** if the information contained within is found to be false or incomplete.

____ I/We understand that if any information contained herein is found to be false or incomplete, any and all relief granted by this application will be forfeited and placed back on the assessment roll with penalties and interest occurring on the additional tax liability in accordance with Section 211.19 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

____ I/We understand this application for exemption is **ONLY** for the tax year **2026**.

____ I/We have received a copy of and understand the 2026 Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines.

____ I/We certify that I/We **DID** file a State or Federal Income Tax Return (1040 or MI-1040) and Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit (MI-1040CR) for the tax year **2025** and included a copy with this application OR complete & include the Poverty Exemption Affidavit, Form 4988.

____ I/We hereby authorize the Scio Township Assessing Department to verify and or obtain information from any creditor, financial institution, government agency, insurance company or any other organization necessary for the purpose of this application of Poverty Exemption for the tax year of **2026**.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Spouse Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name of Preparer if other than applicant: _____

(please print)

SCIO TOWNSHIP
WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Parcel Number: _____

Property Address: _____

I/We, _____, hereby consent to the examination of all submitted documents as well as the tax returns and other related financial documents required to determine eligibility for tax relief, including but not limited to those listed below:

- Federal Income Tax Returns
- Michigan Income Tax Returns
- Principal Residence Exemption form
- Social Security Administration Statements

By the Scio Township Assessing Department Staff, their designated agent, the members of Scio Township Board of Review, and the State of Michigan Tax Tribunal authority. I further consent to any discussion of the information contained in this application at a duly convened public meeting of the Scio Township Board of Review.

By Signing this Waiver of Confidentiality, I understand and acknowledge that I am forever giving up any and all possible claims that I may have related to the disclosure of information contained in said tax returns and related documents, for which claims may arise pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 6103, and/or any other federal, state, or local statute or regulation.

I certify that I have read and understand the contents of this document in its entirety and have signed it of my own free will.

Print Name

Print Name

Signature

Signature

Date

Date

Petition to Board of Review

L-4035

This form is issued under the authority of P.A. 206 of 1893, as amended. Filing is voluntary; however, you may not appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal unless you first protest to the Board of Review, except when the property is classified as commercial real, industrial real, or developmental real. You may not appeal property classification to the State Tax Commission unless you first protest to the Board of Review.

TO BE COMPLETED BY OWNER OR OWNER'S AGENT

Owner's Name (Please Print or Type)		Petitioner's Name (If Other than Owner. Please Print or Type)	
Township or City	County	Year of Appeal	

The undersigned protests the assessed value and/or the tentative taxable value and/or the property classification and/or the qualified agricultural property exemption of the following described property:

Property Identified (Parcel code required. Property address and legal description optional.)

Protested Item: Assessed Value Tentative Taxable Value Taxable Status (exemption) Classification Qualified Agricultural Property Exemption

1. PROTEST OF ASSESSMENT

Complete this section for a protest of assessed value, including assessed value changes associated with exempt status and denied or late filed personal property forms.

Assessed Value	Owner's Estimate of True Cash Value (Market Value)
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2. PROTEST OF TAXABLE VALUE

Complete this section for a protest of Taxable Value.

Reason: Value of Losses Value of Additions Poverty Exemption Uncapping %

3. PROTEST OF CLASSIFICATION

Complete this section for a request to change the classification. The Board of Review must make their decision regarding classification in accordance with Section 211.34c of the Michigan Compiled Laws. The Board of Review shall not be influenced by the effect that a particular classification has on that property's status as a homeowner's principal residence or qualified agricultural property.)

Classification of property on this year's assessment roll

Classification should be (check one of the following):

Agricultural Industrial Timber Cutover Utility (Personal Property Only)
 Commercial Residential Developmental

4. PROTEST OF EXEMPTION FOR QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

If the assessor has denied or changed the percentage of the exemption from the 18 mills of local school operating tax for qualified agricultural property, the owner may appeal this action to the March Board of Review. THE BOARD OF REVIEW HAS NO AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER OR ACT UPON THE EXEMPTION FROM THE 18 SCHOOL OPERATING MILLS FOR HOMEOWNER'S PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE PROPERTIES.)

Percent qualified agricultural exemption granted by assessor (Enter 0 if exemption denied)	Percent qualified agricultural exemption requested by owner (Enter 100 if full exemption requested)
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REASON FOR PROTEST

State reason(s) for protest of assessed value and/or the tentative taxable value and/or taxable status and/or classification and/or qualified agricultural property exemption

CERTIFICATION

Signature	Date	Phone Number
Address		

