

BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT POVERTY EXEMPTION INCOME GUIDELINES AND
ASSET TEST

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the Supervisor and Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board is required by Section 7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 (MCL 211.7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, that Bennington Township, Shiawassee County, adopts the following guidelines for the Supervisor and Board of Review to implement.

The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the Supervisor or Board of Review, accompanied by 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 or in the current year.
3. Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
5. Meet the 2014 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Jim Forsythe and supported by Board Member Cindy Garber.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted "Aye": Jim Forsythe

Cindy Garber
Donna Ash
Lee Ash
Nancy Zdunic
None

“Nay”:

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Donna Ash, Clerk

I, Donna Ash, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Bennington Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the township board of said township at the regular meeting of said board held on February 3, 2014, 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.

Donna Ash, Clerk

Poverty Guidelines

Eligibility requirements of Bennington Township, Shiawassee County

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the supervisor or board of review, accompanied by 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 or in the current year.
3. Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
5. Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of board of review.
7. Comply with any additional eligibility requirements as determined by the Township board.

If asset levels exceed the items/amounts below, the individual/property owner shall not be eligible for a Property Tax Poverty Exemption.

1. The homestead being claimed and personal property used in connection with the use and occupancy of the homestead.
2. All other assets up to a cumulative dollar value of \$25,000

The following are the federal poverty income standards, which the United States Office of Management and Budget recommends that federal departments and agencies use. The standards are actually compiled and published by the Bureau of the Census, which refers to them as "poverty thresholds."

The governing body of the local assessing unit has the option of considering the age of the resident(s) when establishing their guidelines. This provision applies only when one or two persons reside in the homestead, because there are no age-related thresholds for three or more persons in the homestead.

Federal Poverty Income Standards for 2014 Assessments

The following are the federal poverty income standards as of 12-31-13 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2014 assessments.

Size of Family Unit Poverty Guidelines

- 1- \$11,490
- 2- \$15,510
- 3- \$19,530
- 4- \$23,550
- 5- \$27,570
- 6- \$31,590
- 7- \$35,610
- 8- \$39,630

For each additional person, add \$4,020