SOUTH BRANCH TOWNSHIP

PROPERTY TAX POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES -**2024**

(Pursuant to Public Act 390 of 1994) Adopted by the South Branch Township Board on December 12, 2023)

Filing Requirements

In order to file and qualify for the property tax poverty exemption, the claimant must do all of the following and meet each of the following requirements annually.

1. Own and occupy the homestead property for which the exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the supervisor or board of review after January 1st but before the day prior to the last day of the Board of Review on a form provided by the local assessing unit. (Note: The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the March Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.)
3. Provide federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead including any property tax credit returns. These income tax returns may be those filed in the current year or in the immediately preceding year.
4. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested by the supervisor or board of review.
5. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is being requested, if required, by the supervisor or board of review.
6. Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined by the United States Office of Management and Budget which will be discussed later in this bulletin under the heading "Federal Poverty Income Standards".
7. Report divestment of assets on the required application form.
8. Meet the asset levels set by the South Branch Township Board
9. Meet any other tests that may be set by the South Branch Township Board.

INCOME STANDARDS

The following are current poverty threshold income Standards provided by the United States Office of Management and Budget and issued to the Michigan assessors by the Michigan State Tax Commission in Bulletin No. 18 of 2023

1. In order to meet the requirement of the Income Standards provided by the United States Office of Management the claimant's annual gross household income cannot exceed the amounts stated below.

Number of Persons Residing in Household	Poverty Threshold Maximum Household Income As indicated by Federal Guidelines
1 person	$14,580
2 persons	$19,720
3 persons	$24,860
4 persons	$30,000

5 persons	$35,140
6 persons	$40,280
7 persons	$45,420
8 persons	$50,560
For each additional person	$5,140

Ordinary income includes the following:

1. Money wages and salaries before any deductions.
2. Net receipts from non-farm, self-employment. These are receipts from a person's own business, profession enterprise, or partnership, after deductions for business expenses.
3. Net receipts from farm self-employment. These are receipts from a farm which one operates as an owner, renter, or sharecropper, after deductions for farm operating expenses.
4. Regular payments from Social Security, Railroad Retirement, unemployment compensation, strike benefits from union funds, workers compensation, veterans' payments, and public assistance.
5. Alimony, child support, and military family allotments or other regular support from an absent family member for someone not living in the household.
6. Private pensions, government employee pension (including military retirement pay), and regular insurance or annuity payments.
7. College or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, and assistant ships.
8. Dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings.

Ordinary income does not include the following, except as provided in number 6 above.

1. Money received from the sale or property, such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car, unless the claimant is in the business of selling such property.
2. Withdrawals of bank deposits and borrowed money.
3. Income tax refunds and one-time insurance payments.
4. Food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms.
5. Federal non-cash benefits programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps and school lunches.
6. Gifts and lump-sum inheritances are not considered as ordinary income; however, dividends, interest, rental proceeds, royalties, inheritances, and other similar receipts received on a period basis, which may be in the form of a gift or other form, including receipts resulting from divestment of assets, and which may have the appearance of income, shall be considered as unearned income and shall be included in the determination of income eligibility.

ASSET STANDARDS

Asset Eligibility Limitations

In order to meet the requirements for assets, the total current fair market value of the claimant's household assets cannot exceed $10,000.

Definition of Assets (Non-inclusive)

Assets include, but are not limited to the cash value of savings accounts and shares, certificates of deposit, investments such as stocks, bonds, mutual finds, deferred compensation accounts, equity in real estate other than the homestead for which the exemption is claimed, motor vehicles other than on primary transportation vehicle, jewelry, coins and other collectibles, precious metals, and other similar possessions which are not essential to the subsistence or health and well-being of the claimant. Gifts, lump-sum inheritances, dividends, interest rental proceeds, royalties and other receipts received in the form of a gift, or as a result of asset divestment, shall be considered an asset if received on a one-time lump-sum basis and shall be included in the determination of asset eligibility.

Divestment of Assets

Divestment means a transfer of resource. Transfer of a resource means giving up all or partial ownership in (or rights to) a resource. Examples include, but are not limited to, selling an asset, giving an asset away, refusing an inheritance, giving up the right to receive income, other similar divestment actions.

If an application for property tax exemption has divested any assets during the period of 36 months preceding the date of the application, then such divestment shall be considered in determination of eligibility.

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

Partial Poverty Exemption

Act No. 390 of Public Acts of 1994 authorizes partial poverty exemptions. A partial poverty exemption is an exemption of only part of the taxable value of the property for which an exemption is claimed, rather than the entire taxable value.

Appeal

A property owner may appeal the March board of review's decision on a poverty exemption claim to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by June 30. An appeal of a July or December board of review poverty exemption decision may be made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days of the decision. Appeals are to be made in writing to Michigan Tax Tribunal, P.O. Box 30232, Lansing, MI 48909