

POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemption is within the purview of the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the Assessor and Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 391, of 1994 Buchanan City, Berrien County adopts the following guidelines for the Assessor and Board of Review to implement and follow when determining if any applicant is eligible to receive a poverty exemption. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the applicant 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 Form 5737 Application for MCL211.7u Poverty Exemption and Form 5739 Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty with the Assessor 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. A valid driver's license or other form of picture identification is required.
4. A deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership if the property for which an exemption is requested is required.
5. Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and published annually by the State Tax Commission.
6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the December Board of Review.
7. The allowable net value of the asset test shall not exceed 2 times that of the federal poverty guidelines as published on an annual basis by the State Tax Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.