

2026 POVERTY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the City Board, and

WHEREAS, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the Manager 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 Public Act 390, 1994 (MCL 211.7u) and as amended by PA 620 of 2002 and further amended by PA 253 of 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390, 1994, PA 620, 2002 and PA 253 of 2020, Douglas City, Allegan County adopts the following guidelines for the 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 immediately preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall meet all the following requirements:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the Supervisor, 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 UNLESS the attached affidavit is completed for each person that is not required by law to file Federal and/or State income tax return(s).
- 3) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is required, if requested.
- 5) Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget (see attached).
- 6) Have assets totaling no more than \$15,000, not including the primary residence & 1 (one) vehicle.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of Board of Review in the year that the exemption is being requested.
- 8) Any additional eligibility requirements allowed by law as determined by the City Board of Review.

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

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member _____ and supported by Board Member _____.

Upon roll call vote, the following number of Board Members voted "Aye": _____.

The following number of Board Members voted "Nay": _____.

The Manager declared the resolution adopted.

CERTIFICATE

I, Laura Kasper, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Douglas City, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Board of said City at the regular meeting of said Board held on _____ at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members and hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

Laura Kasper
Douglas City Clerk

FEDERAL POVERTY INCOME STANDARDS FOR 2025 ASSESSMENTS

The following are the federal poverty income standards as of December 31, 2025, for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2026 assessments.

<u>Federal Poverty Income Guidelines a</u>	
Number of Persons Residing in the Principal Residence	Maximum Total Income
1	\$15,650
2	\$21,150
3	\$26,650
4	\$32,150
5	\$37,650
6	\$43,150
7	\$48,650
8	\$54,150
Each Additional Person \$5,500	

Income Guidelines

The income guidelines used by the Board of Review have been established in accordance with P.A. 390 of 1994. In determining qualifications for the exemption, the Board of Review shall consider every variable on the application including total household income, the nature and duration of the income stream, the current taxable and state equalized values of the subject property, the quality and accuracy of the information submitted and any other such evidence as they feel appropriate in making their decision. These guidelines shall assist the Board of Review in their decisions.

2025 Poverty Income Guidelines Range for Watervliet City

Number of Persons Residing in the Principal Residence	Household Income	Recommended Board Action Exemption % Percentage Granted
1	\$0 - \$15,650 \$19,560 \$23,480 Max \$27,390	Maximum 100% At this range point 75 % At this range point 50 % At this range point 25 %
2	\$0 - \$21,150 \$26,440 \$31,730 Max \$37,010	Maximum 100 % At this range point 75 % At this range point 50 % At this range point 25 %
3	\$0 - \$26,650 \$33,310 \$39,980 Max \$46,640	Maximum 100 % At this range point 75 % At this range point 50 % At this range point 25 %
4	\$0 - \$32,150 \$41,190 \$48,230 Max \$56,260	Maximum 100 % At this range point 75 % At this range point 50 % At this range point 25 %
5	\$0 - \$37,650 \$47,060 \$56,480 Max \$65,890	Maximum 100 % At this range point 75 % At this range point 50 % At this range point 25 %
6	\$0 - \$43,150 \$53,940 \$64,730 Max \$75,510	Maximum 100 % At this range point 75 % At this range point 50 % At this range point 25 %
7	\$0 - \$48,650 \$60,810 \$72,980 Max \$85,140	Maximum 100 % At this range point 75 % At this range point 50 % At this range point 25 %

8	\$0 - \$54,150	Maximum 100 %
	\$67,690	At this range point 75 %
	\$81,230	At this range point 50 %
	Max \$94,760	At this range point 25 %
	Each Additional Person \$ 5,500	

Assets (not including the primary residence) shall not exceed \$15,000

2026 Poverty Exemption Application Instructions

THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE RETURNED TO:

Mailing Address & Building Location:

Douglas City Assessing Department PO Box 757 Douglas, MI 49406

CITY OF DOUGLAS

[Douglas, MI | Official Website](#)

To be considered for a hardship exemption, the following steps must be followed:

1. The Petitioners must complete this application **IN FULL** including signatures on the last page. Signatures must be notarized. Return the application and attachments to the Assessing Department after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of Board of Review in the year that the exemption is being requested.
2. Per Douglas City's Poverty Resolution, you must attach signed copies of the following for all persons living in the household:
 - ___ **2025 FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN (1040) with W 2's & 1099's.**
 - ___ **2025 MICHIGAN INCOME TAX RETURN (MI-1040)**
 - ___ **2025 HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FORM (MI-1040CR)**
 - ___ **2025 SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT STATEMENT (SSA-1099)**
 - ___ **YEAR END STATEMENTS FOR ASSET INFORMATION**

IF YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED, BY LAW, TO FILE OR STATE INCOME TAX FORMS, YOU MUST COMPLETE THE ATTACHED POVERTY EXEMPTION AFFIDAVIT.

Hardship Exemption as defined by the Michigan Compiled Laws is as follows:

Section 211.7u: The homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges are eligible in whole or in part from taxation under this act.

Please be aware that as an applicant for Hardship Exemption, you must also comply with the following sections of the Michigan Compiled Laws:

Section 211.116 Perjury: Any person who, under any of the proceedings required or permitted by this act, shall willfully swear falsely, will be guilty of perjury and subject to its penalties.

If received timely, your application will be presented at the next scheduled Board of Review.

Your attendance at the appropriate meeting is strongly encouraged but is not required. The Board of Review may have questions for you regarding your application or documentation. Please be aware that the Board of Review MUST conduct their meetings according to the Open Meetings Act.