

Eaton County Treasurer



Bob Robinson

Are You Eligible for a Poverty Exemption?

Michigan law (MCL 211.7u) provides for a reduction in property taxes for eligible, low-income homeowners. Your city, village, and township must offer an application process and set eligibility requirements based on federal poverty guidelines.

You can obtain a poverty exemption application from your local assessor. Contact your local city, village, or township office to find your local assessor to request an application and instructions.

In order to complete an application, you will need the following information:

- Proof that you own the property as your principal residence (having a mortgage is okay).
- Documentation of your income and the income of other in your household. A copy of your most recent income tax return is best. If you are not required to file income taxes, you can complete an exemption affidavit.
- Information about bank accounts and other assets that you might own.
- Information about the other members of your household.

Submit your application to your local Board of Review. Hearings are held in March, July, and December. Ask your local assessor when your application materials are due. Poverty exemptions only reduce property taxes for one year so you will need to apply every year to be eligible.

Other Ways to Lower Your Property Tax Bill

- Seniors and certain disabled homeowners may be eligible for a property tax deferment, which allows you to pay property taxes at a later deadline without additional fees or interest. Contact your city or township Treasurer for an application.
- Disabled veterans may be eligible for an exemption on property taxes under Public Act 161 of 2013. Your local assessor or the Eaton County veterans' service office (available at (517) 543-3740), can give you more information about this program.
- Some homeowners are eligible for a property tax credit on their Michigan income taxes. Free income tax preparation assistance is available in Eaton County for seniors and those of low and moderate income. Call (517) 256-1466 for more information.