

# BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

Dear Bloomfield Township Resident,

The Township has always strived to serve its residents in the best way possible, and offering financial assistance when needed is one way we can help. If you feel like you qualify for the for the property tax hardship exemption, the waiver of solid waste (refuse) application or the minor home improvement community development block grants please take the time to review the following guideline and apply for the programs for which you would qualify.

Section 211.7u (1) of the Michigan General Property Tax Act defines the Poverty or Hardship Exemption as a method to provide relief for those who, in the judgment of the Board of Review are unable to fully contribute to the annual property tax burden of their principal residence due to their financial situation.

In granting Poverty Exemptions, the Charter Township of Bloomfield and the Board of Review realize that it represents a shift of those property taxes exempted to the other taxpayers of the Township. Poverty Exemptions are intended to assist those who are in temporary financial straits and is **NOT** intended as a permanent or continuous subsidy.

To be eligible for Hardship Exemption and Waiver of Solid Waste (Refuse) Application, the following information is required to be filed with the Assessing Office:

1. Fully completed and notarized Bloomfield Township Financial Assistance Application
2. Fully completed 2019 W-2 Forms, Social Security Statements or similar income verification for all permanent members of the household
3. Fully completed 2019 Michigan Income Tax Returns for all household members
4. Fully completed 2019 Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim (MI-1040CR). **IMPORTANT: the law does not allow for the filing of an affidavit attesting that a taxpayer does not file income tax returns. The law requires the applicant to file and produce and income tax even if that return is a zero filing.**
5. Valid Michigan driver's license (if requested)
6. Proof of property ownership (if requested)

Following are the guidelines for Hardship Exemption and Waiver of Solid Waste (Refuse) Application as established by the Charter Township Board of Trustees:

1. Applicants **MUST** meet the poverty income standards; these will be based upon the current year Federal Poverty Thresholds multiplied by a rate of 250% (or 2.5).

<u># Persons</u>	<u>Income</u>
1	\$ 31,225
2	\$ 42,275
3	\$ 53,325
4	\$ 64,750
5	\$ 75,425
6	\$ 86,475
7	\$ 97,525
8	\$108,575
For each additional person	\$ 11,050

2. Applicants **MUST** be an owner of and occupy as a homestead (as defined by MCL 211.7c) the property for which an exemption is being requested. Vacant,

unplatted, contiguous land shall not qualify as homestead property for purposes of these guidelines.

3. Applicants MUST file a completed "Bloomfield Township Financial Assistance Application" with the Board of Review on a form provided by the Assessing Department and included a copy of their Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim and State of Michigan Income Tax Returns and all supporting documents for ALL PERSONS residing in the homestead.
4. Applicants must provide a valid driver's license or other form of identification and must also provide a copy of a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested by the Assessor or Board of Review.
5. Applicants should have a true cash value (assessment x 2), which is less than three hundred and fifty thousand (\$425,000) dollars.
6. The amount of money the applicant has in checking and savings accounts, with the total not to exceed \$22,500 per person residing in the homestead.
7. Ownership interest in real estate other than the homestead. Applicants shall not have ownership of, or interest in, real estate other than the qualified homestead.

Under no circumstance shall the Board of Review reduce the taxable value lower than that which would produce an annual ad valorem tax equal to 3.5% of an applicant's income plus any property tax credit refund payable by the State of Michigan. There shall be no poverty exemption granted that would reduce an applicant's taxable value to less than 1,000. It is not the intent of the Township to adopt a policy of an individual being "automatically entitled" to exemptions.

Your application will be sent to the March, July or December Board of Review session. The Board of Review schedule for 2019 is as follows:

<b>March:</b>	<b>Monday, March 9, 2020</b>	or
<b>July:</b>	<b>Tuesday, July 21, 2020</b>	or
<b>December:</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 15, 2020</b>	

Applicants will be notified in writing of the Board of Review's decision and their appeal rights. All hardship exemptions are, by law, effective for *one year only*.

Please return the fully completed application and necessary information to the Bloomfield Township Assessing Department 5 days prior to the Board of Review. The application can be signed and notarized at the Township. **If there are any questions, please call the Assessing Department at (248) 433-7710.**

Darrin Kraatz, MMAO  
Assessor