

## **CITY OF MARQUETTE**

### **POVERTY EXEMPTION POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

The following policy and guidelines have been adopted by the Marquette City Commission to govern the granting of poverty exemptions:

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested. This does not apply to the property of a corporation.
2. File an application with the City Assessor, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year. A taxpayer who appealed at one board of review may not also appeal at later board of reviews for the same year. If denied by the board of review you may appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
3. Be current on all prior year tax bills. Foreclosure or sale of property rescinds the poverty exemption on the property. Tax bills will be generated at the time of sale in which a full tax year exemption was in place.
4. Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested by the Assessor or Board of Review.
5. Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review.
7. A person who files a claim under this section is not prohibited from also appealing the assessment on the property for which the claim is made before the board of review in the same year.

FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES USED IN THE DETERMINATION OF  
POVERTY EXEMPTIONS FOR 2015.

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$ 11,670
2	\$ 15,730
3	\$ 19,790
4	\$ 23,850
5	\$ 27,910
6	\$ 31,970
7	\$ 36,030
8	\$ 40,090
For each additional person	\$ 4,060

**Note:** PA 140 of 2003 states that the poverty exemption guidelines established by the governing body of the local assessing unit shall also include an asset level test. An asset test means the amount of cash, fixed assets or other property that could be used, or converted to cash for use in the payment of property taxes. The asset test should calculate a maximum amount permitted and all other assets above that amount should be considered as available.

**Asset Test**

The following assets shall not be considered when applying an asset test to determine qualification for tax exemption.

1. The value of the applicant's primary residence subject to the exemption request along with any contiguous residential land, **except as follows:**  
  
Under no circumstances shall a poverty exemption be granted on a principal residence purchased within two (2) years from appeal date.
2. The value of all personal property, such as furniture and clothing.

Notwithstanding the value of property listed above, in order to be considered for tax exemption under MCL 211.7u, the value of all assets shall not exceed five (5) times the annual household income of the applicant.

All asset information, as requested in the Poverty Exemption Application must be completed in full. The Board of Review may request additional information and verification of assets if they determine it is necessary. The Board of Review may reject any application if assets are not properly identified.