



## 2021 POVERTY EXEMPTION INFORMATION

By law, all Board of Review meetings and information discussed are open to the public. Evidence given to the Board of Review or the Assessing Department is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Information requested under this Act may be released to the public.

The application and all requested documentation must be submitted to the Assessing Department by:

- MARCH 1, 2021** for action by the **March** Board of Review
- JULY 12, 2021** for action by the **July** Board of Review
- DECEMBER 6, 2021** for action by the **December** Board of Review

### PLEASE BE ADVISED:

- Exemptions must be applied for annually.
- **The application must be filled out in its entirety, or may be returned.**
- All asset information must be completed in total. The Board of Review may request additional information and verification of assets, if they determine it to be necessary, **and may reject** any application if the assets are not properly identified.
- Failure by the Applicant to supply the required documents, or if found that the documents supplied are fraudulent, will result in denial of the application.

### 2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines used in Poverty Exemption Determinations

Bulletin No. 17 of 2020

Dated: October 20, 2020

MCL 211.7u, which deals with poverty exemptions, was significantly altered by PA 390 of 1994 and was further amended by PA 620 of 2002.

Local governing bodies are required to adopt guidelines that set income levels for their poverty exemption guidelines and those income levels **shall not be set lower** by a city or township than the federal poverty guidelines updated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This means, for example, that the income level for a household of 3 persons **shall not** be set lower than \$21,720 which is the amount shown on the following chart for a family of 3 persons.

The income level for a family of 3 persons may be set higher than \$21,720. Following are the federal poverty guidelines for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2021 assessments.

<b>Size of Family Unit</b>	<b>Poverty Guidelines</b>
1	\$ 12,760
2	\$ 17,240
3	\$ 21,720
4	\$ 26,200
5	\$ 30,680
6	\$ 35,160
7	\$ 39,640
8	\$ 44,120
<i>For each additional person</i>	<i>\$ 4,480</i>

PA 390 of 1994 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 available.

Note: PA 135 of 2012 changed the requirements for filing documentation in support of a poverty exemption to allow an affidavit (Treasury form 4988) to be filed for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns in the current year or in the immediately preceding year. This does include the owner of the property who is filing the exemption.

**Fort Gratiot Assessing Department**  
3720 Keewahdin Road  
Fort Gratiot, Michigan 48059  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Lisa Shagena, Assessor  
(810) 385-4489 x1101  
[lshagena@fortgratiot.us](mailto:lshagena@fortgratiot.us)

**\*NOTE\***

Even with the qualification of this exemption you as the homeowner/Poverty Exemption holder will still be responsible for the portion of the winter taxes that include any or all special assessments such as but not necessarily all inclusive; trash pick-up, drain assessments or any other special assessment that your property may incur.