

*Robert C. Crawford, Supervisor
Robert D. Buechler, Clerk
Jaime L. Oprita, Treasurer*



*Scott Bradley, Trustee
Linda Bruckner, Trustee
George Kish, Trustee
Adam Armbruster, Trustee*

3720 KEEWAHDIN ROAD ~ FORT GRATIOT, MI 48059 ~ PH: (810) 385-4489 ~ FAX:
(810) 385-9010 ~ <https://fortgratiot.us>

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS REQUESTING DISABLED VETERANS' EXEMPTION FOR 2023

**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.**

1. All applicants must obtain and complete the attached application. The application and all requested documentations must be given to the assessing department by:

MARCH 6, 2023 for action by the March Board of Review

JULY 10, 2023 for action by the July Board of Review

DECEMBER 4, 2023 for action by the December Board of Review

2. Applications must be filed every year, with the renewal letter from the VA. A new letter should be sent by the VA yearly, this is the letter that should accompany the application. If granted, exemptions are in effect for one (1) year only.
3. In order to be eligible for the exemption, the disabled veteran must have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States. They must be a Michigan resident. Additionally, they must meet one of the following criteria:
 - (a) Has been determined by the United States department of veterans' affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.
 - (b) Has a certificate from the United States veterans' administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.
 - (c) Has been rated by the United States department of veterans' affairs as individually unemployable.

The unremarried surviving spouse of the disabled veteran is eligible for the exemption based upon the eligibility of their spouse: therefore the spouse must also be a Michigan resident. The exemption will continue only as long as the surviving spouse remains unremarried.

How is a determination made that the disabled veteran is permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate?

The Veterans' Administration defines a service connected disability as a disability related to an injury or disease that developed during or was aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training.¹ The Veterans Administration Schedule for Rating Disabilities is used to assess the medical conditions and illnesses incurred or aggravated during the veteran's military service and a percentage rating from 0% to 100% is assigned based on the severity of the disability.

Individuals filing the affidavit for the exemption under criteria a) must provide a copy of the letter from the Veterans' Administration indicating they have 100% service connected disability and are entitled to receive benefits.

Note: The act does not require the disabled veteran to have already received the benefit, it only requires that they have been determined to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.

What is assistance for specially adapted housing?

The Veteran's Administration provides veterans with certain permanent and total service connected disabilities financial assistance to purchase or construct an adapted home or to modify an existing home to accommodate a disability. There are two grant programs: specially adapted housing grant (SAH) and the special housing adaptation grant (SHA).²

The State Tax Commission has determined that receipt of either grant would qualify and individual for the exemption under criteria b).

Individuals filing the affidavit for the exemption under criteria b) must provide a copy of the certificate from the Veterans' Administration indicating they are receiving or have received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.

What does individually unemployable mean?

¹ Summary of VA Benefits for Disabled Veterans

² U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Housing Grants for Disabled Veterans

Individual employability is part of the Veterans' Administration disability compensation program. Under this program, veterans may receive compensation at the 100% rate even though their service connected disability is not rated at 100%.³

In order to be eligible a veteran must prove they are unable to maintain substantially gainful employment as a result of their service connected disability. In addition they must have one service connected disability rated at 60% or more or two or more service connected disabilities with at least one rated at 40% or more with a combined rating of 70% or more.⁴

Individuals filing the affidavit for the exemption under criteria c) must provide a copy of the letter from the Veterans' Administration indicating they are individually unemployable.

Is there an asset test and/or means test to determine eligibility?

No, there is not asset test and/or means test to determine eligibility. In order to be eligible the disabled veteran must meet the requirements of Public Act 161 of 2013 regardless of their income or the value of their home.

4. Applicants will be sent a notice of the Board of Review's final decision. An applicant may appeal the Board's decision to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An assessor may also appeal the Board's decision. Appeals of the March Board of Review must be filed with the Michigan Tax Tribunal by July 31, and appeals of the July or December Board of Review must be filed with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days of the Board's decision.

NOTE

Even with the qualification of this exemption you as the homeowner/Disabled Veterans 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; administrative fees, trash pick-up, drain assessments or any other special assessment that your property may incur.

³ Veteran's Affairs Individual Unemployability Fact Sheet

⁴ Veteran's Affairs Individual Unemployability Fact Sheet