

RESOLUTION FOR 2026 POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

At a Regular Meeting of the Bengal Township Board held at the Bengal Township Hall, 6586 W. M-21, St. Johns, MI on the 14th day of January 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Members Sillman, Bassette, Tipper,  
Solomon

ABSENT: Members McDonald

The following Resolution was offered by Member Solomon and supported by Member Sillman.

WHEREAS, Public Act (PA) 253 of 2020, which amended PA 206 of 1893 and PA 313 of 1993, concerning section MCL 211.7u of the Michigan Compiled Laws, requires the local governing body of the unit to annually determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines for granting of poverty exemptions;

and

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the township board; and

WHEREAS, the Principal Residence of persons who, in the judgment of the Supervisor and Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under PA 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, PA 253 of 2020, BENGAL TOWNSHIP, Clinton County, Michigan adopts the following Poverty Exemption Guidelines for the Supervisor and Board of Review. The guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED: That to be eligible for a Poverty Exemption in Bengal Township, an applicant must be the owner of and must occupy the property as a Principal Residence for which the exemption is requested; file a completed and notarized application in the form prescribed by the Township Assessor; and file copies of Federal and State Income Tax Returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit forms and/or Statement of Benefits Paid from Michigan Department of Social Services or Social Security Administration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the applicant must have an annual income that equals, or is less than, the Federal Poverty Income Standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services; (Exhibit Attached)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The applicants, and any persons residing in the Principal Residence, shall NOT have assets in excess of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$13,800) fair market value excluding the Principal Residence and one automobile. Assets to be included may be personal property, recreational vehicles, checking/savings accounts, certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The applicant will provide to the Board of Review a valid driver's license, or other form of identification, and proof of ownership of the Principal Residence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Review may request from the applicant any supporting documents which may be utilized in determining a Poverty Exemption request;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the completed Poverty Exemption application must be filed after January 1, but not later than one day prior to the last day of the Board of Review in the year for which the exemption is sought;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That BENGAL TOWNSHIP Policy and Guidelines for Applicants, attached hereto and incorporated herein, shall be followed by the applicant, Township Assessor, and the Bengal Township Board of Review in processing of applications for and the granting of Poverty Tax Exemptions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That to conform to the provisions of PA 253 of 2020 this resolution is hereby effective January 14, 2026.

VOTE: AYES 4 NAYS \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT 1

The foregoing Resolution is adopted.

Sharon Basselle DATED 1-14-26

Bengal Township Clerk