

Cooper Charter Township

2025 Application for Reduction in Property Taxes

Documents Needed and Important Dates

Please review the list below and the Guidelines and Instructions

Complete and sign the application form, which includes a complete listing of all persons residing in the home, showing their ages, employment/disability status and income.

If the property is not in your name currently due to an unrecorded land contract or otherwise, please provide proof of ownership.

Please review the required documentation to be included with the application. Include three (3) months of bank statements, retirement, annuity, cash value life insurance, brokerage, or other financial asset accounts held by you or any person residing in your household. If you are unable to provide three (3) months, please explain the reason for not providing the additional months.

Deadline dates for hardship applications:

For the application to be heard on March 2025 Board of Review:

Application must be received by March 7, 2025

For the application to be heard at the July 2025 Board of Review:

Application must be received by July 12, 2025

For the application to be heard on December 2025 Board of Review:

Application must be received by December 6, 2025

Deliver the application and all documents to:

Cooper Charter Township
1590 West D Avenue
Kalamazoo MI 49009

WHEN WILL THE APPLICATION BE CONSIDERED?

After you complete the application and furnish all the required documentation, the Assessor will determine if you meet the guidelines as established by the township board. If so, then the Application must go before the township's Board of Review for approval. This takes place only in March, July or December. PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION. If your application is approved after the tax bill for the year has been issued, then that bill will be recalculated in the lowered amount. The Board of Review cannot approve a reduction for prior years; **APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THE APPLICATION OF REDUCTION IN PROPERTY TAXES EACH YEAR.**

Decisions for the March Board of Review may be appealed in writing to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by July 31 of the current year. July or December Board of Review denials may be appealed to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days of the denial. A copy of the Board of Review decision must be included with the filing.

Michigan Tax Tribunal Phone # 517-373-3003

P.O. Box 30232

Lansing MI 48909

Email taxtrib@michigan.gov Website www.michigan.gov/taxtrib

Cooper Charter Township
Kalamazoo County, Michigan

Resolution No. 25-
Poverty Exemption Resolution

Whereas, the adoption of the guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township Board;
and

Whereas, the principal residence of a person, who the Supervisor/Assessor and the Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under **Public Act 253 of 2020** (MCL 211.7u); and

Whereas, pursuant to **PA 253 of 2020**, the Township of Cooper, Kalamazoo County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. 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:

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 the exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the supervisor/assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all person residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
3. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
4. Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
5. Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United State Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, in the year which the exemption is being requested, but one day prior to the last day of the Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.
7. Meet the township's additional eligibility requirements, as established in the Poverty Asset Level Test Guidelines.
8. Poverty Exemptions granted in 2019 or 2020 may remain exempt for 2021, 2022, and 2023 without reapplication if the person received fixed income solely from public assistance. (PA 253 of 2020) **This has expired for 2024.**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

Poverty Asset Level Test Guidelines

In addition to being at or below the Township Poverty Policy for Income, the total value of assets owned by the applicant should not exceed the income amount of the Township Poverty Policy for the number of persons in the household. The asset level does not include the primary resident for which the exemption is sought. The asset level is \$25,000 for 2024.

It does not include but is not limited to:

- A second home, additional land not associated with the primary resident or other buildings other than the primary residence being sought for exemption.
- Vehicles and other recreational vehicles such as motor homes, campers, ATV's boats and motorcycles.
- Jewelry, antiques, artwork, equipment and other personal property of value.
- Bank accounts stocks, bonds and investments. This also includes the money received from the sale of stocks, bonds, investments, cars and houses unless a person is in the specific business of selling such property.
- Withdrawals of bank accounts and borrowed money.
- Gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances and one-time insurance payments
- Food or housing received in lieu of wages, and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms.
- Federal non-cash benefits programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps and school lunches
- The total interest income in all accounts (checking, savings, CD's IRA's 401ks, money market annuities, etc.)
- The applicant shall not have an ownership interest in any real estate other than the primary residence being considered for exemption.

The asset level does not include:

- Additional vehicles equal to the number of licensed drivers in the home.
- More land than a minimum "footprint" for the home up to the size that allows the division of the land for a building site.

The board of Review is not allowed to deviate from these guidelines.

The following are the federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

2025 POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINES

Test 1:

Poverty Income Guidelines

"Table 1"

How Much Income a Person Can Receive Per Year and Be Eligible

For the Poverty Exemption

Using the 2025 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines

Size of Family/Household	Maximum Total <u>Income</u>
1	\$15,060
2	\$20,440
3	\$25,820
4	\$31,200
5	\$36,580
6	\$41,960
7	\$47,340
8	\$52,720
Additional Person	\$5,140

1590 West D Avenue

Kalamazoo MI 49009

269-382-0223

Certificate

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of the Resolution Adopted a regular board Meeting of the Charter Township of Cooper Board held at the Cooper Township office On Monday, _____ and said meeting was conducted and the public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meets Act, being 1976 PA 267: that a quorum of the Board was present and voted upon said Resolution as set forth in the minutes of said meeting which were kept and have been or will be made available as required by said Open Meeting act.

DeAnna Janssen, Clerk



MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption Taxpayer Fact Sheet

MCL 211.7u provides for a property tax exemption, in whole or part, for the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges. For purposes of the poverty exemption, the term "principal residence" means how principal residence exemption and qualified agricultural property are defined in MCL 211.7dd. The exemption does not apply to property of a corporation. This Taxpayer Fact Sheet includes updates made to MCL 211.7u by Public Act 253 of 2020.

How To Apply For The Poverty Exemption

To request a poverty exemption, a taxpayer must file:

1. Form 5737 *Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption*
2. Form 5739 *Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty*
3. All required additional documentation (such as federal/state income tax returns)

Forms 5737 and 5739, along with any additional documentation, must be filed with the local assessing unit where the property is located. **Do not file these forms with the Department of Treasury or the State Tax Commission.** The forms may be submitted to the local assessing unit on or after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review during the year in which the exemption is requested.

Taxpayers should contact the local assessing unit directly to verify deadline dates for submission of the forms to ensure the application gets reviewed by a Board of Review during that calendar year.

In addition to filing Forms 5737 and 5739 and any supporting documentation, a taxpayer must do all the following to be eligible for the poverty exemption:

1. Own and occupy the property as a principal residence.
2. Provide federal and state income tax returns for the current or immediately preceding year, including any property tax credits, for all persons **residing in the principal residence** (disclosure of the income of an owner who is not residing in the principal residence is not required). Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return. Instead, Form 4988, *Poverty Exemption Affidavit* may be filed for all persons residing in

the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns in the current or immediately preceding year.

3. Produce a valid driver license or other form of identification, if requested.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property, if requested.
5. Meet the federal poverty guidelines published in the prior calendar year in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the local assessing unit. The alternative guidelines cannot provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
6. Meet the asset level test adopted by the local assessing unit.

Appeal Rights

An appeal of a decision of the March Board of Review is made by completing and submitting a petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal no later than July 31 of the same year. A decision of the July or December Board of Review may be appealed by completing and submitting a petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days of the July or December Board of Review's decision. More information on how to file an appeal is available by contacting the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Information can also be viewed on the Michigan Tax Tribunal's website at <https://www.michigan.gov/taxtribunal>.

Poverty Exemption Affidavit

This form is issued under authority of Public Act 206 of 1893; MCL 211.7u.

INSTRUCTIONS: When completed, this document must accompany a taxpayer's Application for Poverty Exemption filed with the supervisor or the board of review of the local unit where the property is located. MCL 211.7u provides for a whole or partial property tax exemption on the principal residence of an owner of the property by reason of poverty and the inability to contribute toward the public charges. MCL 211.7u(2)(b) requires proof of eligibility for the exemption be provided to the board of review by supplying copies of federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including property tax credit returns, or by filing an affidavit for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns for the current or preceding tax year.

I, _____, swear and affirm by my signature below that I reside in the principal residence that is the subject of this Application for Poverty Exemption and that for the current tax year and the preceding tax year, I was not required to file a federal or state income tax return.

Address of Principal Residence: _____

Signature of Person Making Affidavit

Date

Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty

This form is issued under the authority of Public Act 253 of 2020.

This form is to be used to affirm ownership, occupancy, and income status. MCL 211.7u(2) provides that, to be eligible for exemption under this section, a person shall, subject to subsection (6) and (8), annually affirm that the applicant owns and occupies, as a principal residence, the property for which an exemption is requested.

PART 1: OWNER INFORMATION — Enter information for the person owning and occupying the residence.

Owner Name		Owner Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code

PART 2: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION (Complete if applicable.)

Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code

PART 3: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY INFORMATION — Enter information for property in which the exemption is being claimed.

City or Township (check the appropriate box and enter name) <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> Village		County	
Name of Local School District			
Parcel Identification Number		Year(s) Exemption Previously Granted by Board of Review	
Homestead Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code

PART 4: AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP, OCCUPANCY, AND INCOME STATUS (Check all boxes that apply.)

- I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed.
- The property in which the exemption is being claimed is used as my homestead. Homestead is generally defined as any dwelling with its land and buildings where a family makes its home.
- After establishing initial eligibility for the exemption, my income and asset status has remained unchanged and/or I receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases beyond the rate of inflation, such as federal Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability or retirement benefits.

PART 5: CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided on this form is true and I am eligible to receive an exemption from property taxes by reason of poverty pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.

Owner or Legal Designee Name (print)	Signature of Owner or Legal Designee	Date
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Designee must attach a letter of authority.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE ONLY (DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied (Attach appeal instructions and provide to owner.)	Tax Year(s) exemption will be posted to tax roll
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CERTIFICATION — I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this form is complete and accurate.

Assessor Signature	Date Certified by Assessor
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Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption

This form is issued under the authority of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, MCL 211.7u.

MCL 211.7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, provides a property tax exemption for the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges. This application is to be used to apply for the exemption and must be filed with the Board of Review where the property is located. This application may be submitted to the city or township the property is located in each year on or after January 1.

To be considered complete, this application must: 1) be completed in its entirety, 2) include information regarding all members residing within the household, and 3) include all required documentation as listed within the application. Please write legibly and attach additional pages as necessary.

PART 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION — Petitioner must list all required personal information.				
Petitioner's Name			Daytime Phone Number	
Age of Petitioner	Marital Status	Age of Spouse	Number of Legal Dependents	
Property Address of Principal Residence		City	State	ZIP Code
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if applied for Homestead Property Tax Credit		Amount of Homestead Property Tax Credit		
PART 2: REAL ESTATE INFORMATION				
List the real estate information related to your principal residence. Be prepared to provide a deed, land contract or other evidence of ownership of the property at the Board of Review meeting.				
Property Parcel Code Number		Name of Mortgage Company		
Unpaid Balance Owed on Principal Residence	Monthly Payment	Length of Time at this Residence		
Property Description				
PART 3: ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION				
List information related to any other property owned by you or any member residing in the household.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you own, or are buying, other property. If checked, complete the information below.			Amount of Income Earned from other Property	
1	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid
2	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid

PART 4: EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION — List your current employment information.

Name of Employer

Address of Employer

City

State

ZIP Code

Contact Person

Employer Telephone Number

PART 5: INCOME SOURCES

List all income sources, including but not limited to: salaries, Social Security, rents, pensions, IRAs (individual retirement accounts), unemployment compensation, disability, government pensions, worker's compensation, dividends, claims and judgments from lawsuits, alimony, child support, friend or family contribution, reverse mortgage, or any other source of income, for all persons residing at the property.

Source of Income

Monthly or Annual Income
(Indicate which)**PART 6: CHECKING, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT INFORMATION**

List any and all savings owned by all household members, including but not limited to: checking accounts, savings accounts, postal savings, credit union shares, certificates of deposit, cash, stocks, bonds, or similar investments, for all persons residing at the property.

Name of Financial Institution
or InvestmentsAmount
on DepositCurrent
Interest Rate

Name on Account

Value of
Investment**PART 7: LIFE INSURANCE — List all policies held by all household members.**

Name of Insured

Amount of
PolicyMonthly
PaymentsPolicy Paid in
Full

Name of Beneficiary

Relationship to
Insured**PART 8: MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION**

All motor vehicles (including motorcycles, motor homes, camper trailers, etc.) held or owned by any person residing within the household must be listed.

Make

Year

Monthly Payment

Balance Owed

PART 9: HOUSEHOLD OCCUPANTS — List all persons living in the household.

First and Last Name	Age	Relationship to Applicant	Place of Employment	\$ Contribution to Family Income

PART 10: PERSONAL DEBT — List all personal debt for all household members.

Creditor	Purpose of Debt	Date of Debt	Original Balance	Monthly Payment	Balance Owed

PART 11: MONTHLY EXPENSE INFORMATION

The amount of monthly expenses related to the principal residence for each category must be listed. Indicate N/A as necessary.

Heating	Electric	Water	Phone
Cable	Food	Clothing	Health Insurance
Garbage	Daycare	Car Expense (gas, repair, etc.)	
Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	
Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)	

NOTICE: Per MCL 211.7u(2)(b), 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 must be submitted with this application. Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax year in which the exemption under this section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year.

PART 11: POLICY AND GUIDELINES ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The governing body of the local assessing unit shall determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines used for the granting of exemptions under MCL 211.7u. In order to be eligible for the exemption, the applicant must meet the federal poverty guidelines published in the prior calendar year in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under its authority to revise the poverty line under 42 USC 9902, or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body of the local assessing unit so long as the alternative guidelines do not provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines. The policy and guidelines must include, but are not limited to, the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets. The combined assets of all persons must not exceed the limits set forth in the guidelines adopted by the local assessing unit.

The applicant has reviewed the applicable policy and guidelines adopted by the city or township, including the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets.

PART 12: CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided in this form is complete, accurate and I am eligible for the exemption from property taxes pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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This application shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of the local unit's December Board of Review.

Decision of the March Board of Review may be appealed by petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by July 31 of the current year. A July or December Board of Review decision may be appealed to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by petition within 35 days of decision. A copy of the Board of Review decision must be included with the petition.

Michigan Tax Tribunal
 PO Box 30232
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Phone: 517-335-9760
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