

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP

198 East Bear Lake Rd. Kalkaska, Michigan 49646, Telephone 231-258-4871

FAX: 231-258-0860 - www.bearlaketownship.org

HARDSHIP (POVERTY)

EXEMPTION POLICY

APPLICATION

10/2021

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January 1, 2024

Dear Homeowner:

Enclosed please find the forms that must be filed in order to be eligible to receive an exemption from payment of property taxes. This is valid only on your principal residence within Bear Lake Township for a period of one year.

In order to receive this exemption, a property owner must demonstrate to the township supervisor and the township Board of Review their inability to contribute to public charges.

The forms, which must be signed, may seem overly detailed, but we ask this information in order to make the most informed decision possible. Income, asset and expense information is absolutely required to make this decision. It is in your best interest to complete all sections of the application fully.

Included in this packet is a list of items that must be turned in with your application in order for it to be considered by the Board of Review. It is imperative that all the items that apply to you are included with your application, in order for the Board of Review to make an informed decision. Failure to include all necessary documentation may result in your application being denied or held until a later date.

All due care will be made to maintain the confidentiality of your personal finances.

Sincerely,

George F. Banker
Secretary, Board of Review

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP
COUNTY OF KALKASKA, STATE OF MICHIGAN
198 East Bear Lake Rd SE. Kalkaska, MI. 49646
231-258-4871 www.bearlaketownship.org

HARDSHIP (POVERTY) EXEMPTION POLICY

Public Act 390 of 1994 was passed by the Michigan Legislature and signed by the Governor on December 29, 1994, and said public act makes significant changes to the poverty exemption policy found in MCL 211.7U as amended.

Public Act 390 states that the governing body of the local assessing unit shall determine and make available to the public, the policy and guidelines of the local assessing unit uses for granting hardship (Poverty) exemptions.

RESOLUTION # 13 of 2023
Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test

WHEREAS, the homestead 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 the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, the township board is required by Section 7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 (MCL 211.7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, that Bear Lake Township, Kalkaska County, adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review for 2024.

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 homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
3. Produce a valid drivers' license or other form of identification if requested.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.

5. Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget and published annually by the State Tax Commission Bulletin
6. Meet additional eligibility requirements as determined by the township board, including: maximum value of assets not to exceed \$ 10,000.00

Assets to be included in this maximum value is as follows:

A second home – Land – Vehicles – Recreational vehicles (campers, motor homes, boats, ATV's, etc.)
 Buildings other than the residence – Jewelry – Antiques – Artwork – Equipment – Other personal property of value – Bank accounts – Stocks - Money received from the sale of property such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car unless a person is in the business of selling such property - Withdrawals of bank deposits and borrowed money - Tax refunds, gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, 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 benefit programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, school lunches.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Dixon
 Supported by Knight

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

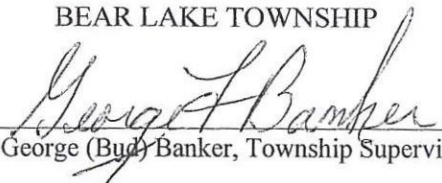
Aye: Banker, Havens, Dannenburg, Knight, Dixon

Nay: _____

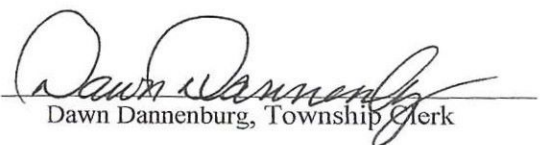
Absent: none

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted:

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP


 George (Bud) Banker, Township Supervisor

I, Dawn Dannenburg, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Bear Lake Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the township board of said township at the regular meeting of said board held on 12/12/13 at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.


 Dawn Dannenburg, Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF BEAR LAKE'S POVERTY THRESHOLD

Dept. of Treasury Bulletin 18, Dated November 14, 2023 - Changes for 2024

<u>SIZE OF FAMILY UNIT</u>	<u>POVERTY GUIDELINES</u>
1	\$14,580
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,420
8	\$50,560
For each additional person	\$5,140