

# Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions for 2026

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 annually 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 \$26,650 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 \$26,650. Following are the federal poverty guidelines for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2026 assessments:

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$15,650
2	\$21,150
3	\$26,650
4	\$32,150
5	\$37,650
6	\$43,150
7	\$48,650
8	\$54,150
For each additional person	\$5,500

Note: MCL 211.7u requires that the poverty exemption guidelines established by the governing body of the local assessing unit shall 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 to pay property taxes.

The asset test should establish a maximum amount and any assets exceeding that amount is considered available. Please refer to STC Bulletin 17 of 2025 for additional information.

Note: MCL 211.7u allows 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 includes the owner of the property who is filing for the exemption.