

# CITY OF RIVER ROUGE - BOARD OF REVIEW

## 2019 POVERTY EXEMPTION POLICY

1. Applicants must be the owner(s) of, and at least one must be an occupant of, the home for which the exemption is being sought. Proof of ownership and residency will be required (deed or land contract, and driver's license or voter's registration card) if it is not already on record with the City of River Rouge Assessor's Office.
2. **Applicants will not be eligible for consideration unless they meet the following adopted guidelines, which include all individuals currently residing in the household, as well as any co-owners who are not residing in the household:**

### **INCOME LIMITATIONS**

Income limitations shall be those established by the City of River Rouge, in adherence with Public Act 390 of 1994. For tax year 2019, applicable income limitations are as follows:

Family of 1:	Combined Household Income may not exceed	\$14,600/yr.
Family of 2:	Combined Household Income may not exceed	\$18,100/yr.
Family of 3:	Combined Household Income may not exceed	\$22,400/yr.
Family of 4:	Combined Household Income may not exceed	\$26,100/yr.
Family of 5:	Combined Household Income may not exceed	\$30,280/yr.
Family of 6:	Combined Household Income may not exceed	\$34,460/yr.
Family of 7:	Combined Household Income may not exceed	\$38,700/yr.
Family of 8:	Combined Household Income may not exceed	\$42,900/yr.
Each additional person		\$4,320

### **ASSET LIMITATIONS**

The asset limitation is exclusive of the applicant's homestead value. Cash, checking, savings, money market, IRA's, annuities, investments of any type (eg. stocks & bonds), or other such liquid assets will be utilized in determining total asset level. Furthermore any other real estate owned by the petitioner, not used as a principal residence, will be considered as assets. ***The total asset level must be lower than \$25,000.***

3. **The household income (including all persons residing in, or owning a portion of the homestead) shall meet the community poverty income standards as set forth above. In cases where household applicant is aged 65 years or older, but meets the community standard, the assessment shall be adjusted so out-of-pocket property tax, as best estimated using the previous year's millage rate and after deducting the applicable state property tax refund equals three and a half percent (3.5%) of the household income. In cases where household applicant is under 65 years of age, but meets the community standard, the assessment shall be adjusted so out-of-pocket property tax, as best estimated using the previous year's millage rate and after deducting the applicable state property tax refund equals five percent (5%) of the household income. Proof of age will be required through a valid driver's license or birth certificate.**

4. Other factors that are pertinent to the granting of the exemption could be considered. If The Board determines that there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the guidelines, they may approve or deny relief beyond the stated guidelines. Such substantial and compelling reasons shall be communicated in writing to the applicant(s).
5. All applicants must obtain the proper application from the Assessor's Office, complete the entire application, attach all documentation requested (see below), and sign the application.
6. A valid driver's license or birth certificate is required to show proof of age of applicant.
7. **All applicants must supply copies of the following documents for each individual currently residing in the household as well as any co-owners who are not residing in the household:**

Most recent Statement of Account for *every* asset account each individual has  
(Checking, Savings, IRA's, Investments, etc.)

2018 Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim\* (MI-1040CR or 1040CR-2)

2018 Michigan Income Tax Return\* (MI-1040)

2018 Federal Income Tax Return\* (Federal 1040 or 1040A)

***\*Applicants must also provide the documents that substantiate each of the dollar figures listed on the above tax forms, such as:***

W-2 Forms, Social Security or SSI Benefit Statements, Pension Benefit Statements, Interest & Dividend Income Statements, Unemployment or Workmen's Compensation Benefit Statements, FIA Benefit Statements, Child Support Documentation, Alimony Documentation, etc.

8. In no case will the Board of Review approve an assessment reduction without the necessary and required documentation.
9. All applicants will be evaluated based on data submitted and testimony given along with information gathered from any source the Board chooses.
10. Any applicant may be subject to investigation of their financial and property records by the Township. This investigation will be performed to verify information used to support the applicant's poverty claim.
11. **Documents submitted to the Board will **not** be returned.**
12. **Application for Poverty Exemption may be made only **one time** per year,** at either the March, July or December Boards of Review. The amount of exemption, if granted, applies to the **whole** year, and any amount of overpayment will be refunded.
13. All poverty exemptions are **applicable only for the year in which granted.** **To be considered for exemption the following year, you must repeat the application process.**