

2025-05 RESOLUTION FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION

At a regular meeting of the City of Saint Louis, Gratiot County, Michigan, held in the Council Chambers of said City on the 4th day of February 2025, the following preamble and resolution was offered by Upton as supported by Council Member Leonard.

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the City of St. Louis Council; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who 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 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the City of Saint Louis, Gratiot 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, all the following conditions must be met:

- 1) An applicant must own and occupy, as a homestead property, for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) An applicant must file Form 5737 Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption.
- 3) An applicant must file Form 5739 Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty.
- 4) An applicant must file all required additional documentation (such as federal/state income tax returns, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year, with the assessor or board of review, or a signed *State Tax Commission form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit*).
- 5) An applicant must produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 6) An applicant must produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested, if requested.
- 7) An applicant must meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
- 8) An applicant must file an application for an exemption after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review meeting.
- 9) If the property in question contains enough acreage that at least one or more buildable lots could be split from the main parcel under the land division act, the city will count the value of any additional parcel that could be split when calculating the applicant's total assets and that combined value shall not exceed the maximum total assets.
- 10) An applicant's total assets shall not be more than \$2,000. Please refer to MCL 211.7u for Income and Asset Test.
- 11) Fixed assets shall be limited to one house and one vehicle for the claimant and no house and one vehicle for each adult person residing with the claimant.

The following are the 2025 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.

Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2025 Assessments

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$15,060
2	\$20,440
3	\$25,820
4	\$31,200
5	\$36,580
6	\$41,960
7	\$47,340
8	\$52,720
For each additional person	\$5,380

The City of St. Louis will only grant full poverty exemptions.

PA 191 of 2023 amends the poverty exemption to allow local units to grant a 75% partial exemption, in addition to the previously allowed 100%, 50%, and 25%, without prior approval by the State Tax Commission.

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

Ayes: Upton, Leonard, Azzam, Palmer, Echtinaw

Nays: None

Absent: None

Resolution declared adopted.

Certificate

I, Jamie Long, Clerk of the City of Saint Louis, do hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and exact copy adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.



Jamie Long, City Clerk