

Benzonia Township
1020 Michigan Ave.
Benzonia, MI 49616
231-882-4411

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP POVERTY GUIDELINES
RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the Benzonia Township Board; and

WHEREAS, The principal residence of persons, who in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390,1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

Whereas, pursuant to PA 390, 1994 BENZONIA TOWNSHIP of BENZIE COUNTY, State of Michigan
Adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and 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 the owner of a property as their principal residence for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the supervisor or board of review, you may be asked to produce federal and state 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.
3. Produce a valid drivers' license, or other form of identification if requested.
4. You may be asked to produce a deed, land contract, or evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is being requested.

5. Meet the poverty income standards as adopted by the Benzonia Township Board (which may not be less than the federal guidelines).
6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of March board of review.
7. The board of review shall follow the policy and guidelines of the local assessing unit in granting or denying an exemption under this section unless the board of review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and guidelines, and the substantial and compelling reasons are communicated **in writing** to the claimant.
8. Any additional eligibility requirements as determined by the township board.

What the township board is really establishing is a definition of “poverty” in Benzonia Township, based on the federal thresholds, plus a local determination of assess that a person can own and still be considered to be unable to contribute to the public charge in Benzonia Township.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, “income” includes:

1. Money, wages and salaries before any deductions.
2. Net receipts from non-farm self employment. (These are receipts from a person’s own business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after deductions for business expenses.)
3. Net receipts from farm self employment. (With the same provisions as above for self-employment.)
4. Regular payments from social security, railroad retirement, unemployment, worker’s compensation, veteran’s payments, and public assistance.
5. Alimony, child support, and military family allotments.
6. Private pensions, government pensions, and regular insurance or annuity payments.
7. College or university scholarships, grants, fellowships, and assistantships.
8. Dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings.

The Benzonia Township Board and ultimately the Board of Review has the option to ask an applicant to list any of the following types of assets to apply for a poverty exemption:

1. A second home.

2. Land
3. Vehicles
4. Recreational vehicles (campers, motor homes, boats, ATVs, etc;)
5. Buildings other than the residence.
6. Jewelry.
7. Antiques.
8. Artwork.
9. Equipment.
10. Other personal property of value.
11. Bank accounts over \$10,000.
12. Stocks and Bonds.
13. 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).
14. Withdrawals of bank deposits and borrowed money.
15. Tax refunds, gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, one-time insurance payments.
16. Food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms.
17. Federal noncash benefits programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, or school lunches.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the foregoing resolution offered by Board Member ___Burns_____and supported by Board Member_Priest_____

Upon roll call vote, the following voted "Aye" ___Sheets, Burns, Priest, Barnard, Heller

"Nay:
None_____

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Diana L.
Heller_____

Clerk

CERTIFICATE

I, Diana L. Heller, THE DULY ELECTED AND ACTING Clerk of Benzonia Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted

by the Benzonia Township Board at the regular meeting of The Benzonia Township Board held on _____02/18/2016____, 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.

Diana L. Heller_____ Clerk