

Georgetown County, SC
Procedures Regarding Establishing Family Income

Georgetown County has adopted an ordinance establishing impact fees for recreation, law enforcement, transportation and libraries. Impact fees for fire service have been previously collected. The ordinance states that “all or part of a particular development project is not subject to the impact fees if: the project is determined to create Affordable Housing and the exempt development’s proportionate share of System Improvements is funded through a revenue source other than Impact Fees”. Affordable housing is defined as housing affordable to families whose incomes do not exceed eighty percent (80%) of the median income in Georgetown County. In order to provide relief to families meeting this income limit, the County is establishing these guidelines which include defining income for this purpose.

1. A person applying for a building permit or mobile home permit may claim exemption from the payment of impact fees if their household income is below 80% of the median income of the area.
2. The County shall use the most recent family income data provided by the Federal government and used in Department of Housing and Urban Development programs.
3. Any family receiving food stamps shall be automatically qualified as that program utilizes income criteria equal to or more stringent than the 80% of median income used by the County. The applicant must provide verification of food stamps and that shall be deemed as qualification for the impact fee exemption.
4. In determining if a family is exempt from the impact fees, the County shall use the “adjusted gross income”, **“wages, salaries and tips” or “total income”**, **whichever is highest**, as defined for purposes of reporting under IRS Form 1040 series for individual Federal annual income tax purposes. All persons residing in the house must be represented on the 1040 Form or 1040EZ Form or their respective incomes added to determine the total household income. A copy of the tax form for the most recent tax year must be provided to the County. **In addition to the tax information, the County shall consider all other assets such as cash on hand, checking accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposits.** The County shall maintain a secure file and keep all such information as confidential. The copies of income tax forms may be destroyed three (3) years after the date of exemption approval.
5. **Waivers to the impact fees may only be granted to non-income producing properties. Waivers will not be granted to dwelling units that are rented. The owners of building sites to be rented or leased are not eligible to apply for the waiver.**

6. In the event a granted exemption is for a mobile home, such exemption is valid for one year. A person seeking an exemption whose intention is to apply for a building permit, must apply for the permit within 60 days of receiving the exemption.
7. A person may allow an agent to apply for the exemption on their behalf. If an agent is not a licensed attorney, the owner shall provide a power of attorney to such party.

Revised Date of Adoption: March 3, 2010