

Iowa's Food Stamps (SNAP) Policy		
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Gross income limit How much can family members earn while being eligible?	\$3,343*/month (or 160% FPL for a family of three in 2024).	Consider extending the gross income limit to 200% FPL for BBCE-eligible families to expand eligibility and soften benefit cliffs, as many other states have done (e.g., Michigan, Kentucky, North Dakota, Wisconsin).
Asset Limit How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?	Families can retain up to \$15,000.	Remove the asset limit entirely so that households with children can retain savings while receiving nutritional support, as many other states have (e.g., Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio).
Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA) Does Iowa provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?	No.	Consider providing TBA to families transitioning from TANF cash assistance, as other states have (e.g., Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska).
* Current administrative guidelines may present different income amounts depending on when updates to the current federal poverty guidelines are implemented.		
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Treatment of child support payments to non-household members Does Iowa treat child support payments made to non-	No.	Enable more families to qualify

household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?		for SNAP by treating child support payments as income exclusions in the eligibility process (e.g., Illinois, Michigan, Missouri).
Lifting drug felony bans Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?	Yes.	N/A
Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs Has Iowa extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?	No.	Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, Minnesota).
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Less frequent recertification periods Has Iowa extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?	No.	N/A
Simplified income reporting Does Iowa require parents to report income only when it rises above the eligibility limit?	Yes.	N/A
Online services for all application processes Does Iowa offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?	No. Services are provided online only for the initial application.	Consider providing online renewal and change reporting services to reduce administrative costs and streamline processes for busy parents, as other states are

		doing (e.g., Wisconsin, Ohio, Nebraska).
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