

Montana'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?	\$4,303*/month (or 200% FPL for a family of three in 2024).	N/A
Asset Limit How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?	There is no limit on savings for BBCE-eligible families.	N/A
Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA) Does Montana 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 are doing to support families with children during vulnerable periods (e.g., Oklahoma, 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 Montana treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?	No.	Enable more families to qualify for SNAP by treating child support payments as income exclusions in the eligibility process, as many other states are doing (e.g., South Dakota, Missouri).

Lifting drug felony bans Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?	Montana has modified its ban to offer eligibility to those that have discharged their conviction sentence and to those compliant with the conditions of supervision/probation, including participating in any treatment determined to be required.	Consider fully eliminating the ban of those convicted of drug-related felonies, as other states have done (e.g., Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota).
Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs Has Montana extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?	No.	Consider using state funds to 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 Montana extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?	Yes.	N/A
Simplified income reporting Does Montana require parents to report income only when it rises above the eligibility limit?	Yes.	N/A
Online services for all application processes Does Montana offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?	Yes.	N/A

