

Overview of SNAP Policy: Alabama’s adoption of flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt did not target expansion of SNAP eligibility to families with children; instead, the state has only used the framework to remove the asset limit for households with elderly or disabled members. As a result, a family of three cannot qualify for SNAP benefits if their gross income exceeds \$2,694/month (130% FPL). Likewise, families cannot retain assets like cash or savings greater than \$2,750.

Alabama has **modified its ban on eligibility for adults convicted of drug-related felonies** to extend access to those who have completed their sentence or are compliant with the terms relating to their supervision, probation, and/or treatment. Additionally, the state offers online services for its initial **application, change reporting, and renewal of SNAP benefits**, thereby easing the administrative burdens that can limit families from accessing nutritional support even when they are eligible, as seen in other states. Alabama has also **increased the recertification period from six to twelve months for all households with children**.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: Under the BBCE flexibilities provided to Alabama, the state could greatly increase the number of households eligible for SNAP by **raising its gross income limit up to 200% FPL** for all families with children and either **removing or increasing its asset limit**. Families with savings or “rainy day funds” are less likely to experience cumulative material hardships, remain dependent on social benefit programs, or return to dependence on them later.¹

Additionally, **treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions** would expand eligibility to more families. Further, **providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefit assistance for several months** would offer more consistent support to low-income families through a critical period of acute need.

Finally, **using state funds to provide SNAP to immigrant households with children who are ineligible under federal regulations** would benefit young children’s development and support economic security, particularly for newly-arrived families.

¹ For research detailing effects of some state-level policies and administrative practices on children and families, see <https://www.nccp.org/ec-profiles-pes-policies-related-research-and-resources/#parenting>.

Alabama's Food Stamps (SNAP) Policy		
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Gross income limit</p> <p>How much can family members earn while being eligible?</p>	\$2,694* (or 125% FPL for an Alabama family of three in 2024).	Consider extending gross income limit to 200% FPL for BBCE-eligible families, as many other states have done (e.g., Louisiana).
<p>Asset Limit</p> <p>How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?</p>	Families can retain up to \$2,750.	Remove the asset limit so that households with children can retain savings while receiving nutritional support (e.g., Georgia). Alternatively, raise the asset limit (e.g., Texas permits up to \$5,000 in assets).
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA)</p> <p>Does Alabama provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?</p>	No.	Consider providing TBA to families transitioning from TANF cash assistance, as other states are doing (e.g., North Carolina, Georgia).
* 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
<p>Treatment of child support payments to non-household members</p> <p>Does Alabama treat child support payments made to non-household members as an</p>	No.	Enable more families to qualify for SNAP by treating child support payments as

income exclusion rather than a deduction?		income exclusions in the eligibility process (e.g., Virginia, South Dakota).
Lifting drug felony bans Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?	Alabama modified its ban to provides access to those who have completed their sentence or are compliant with the terms relating to their supervision, probation, and/or treatment.	Consider fully eliminating the ban on those convicted of drug-related felonies, as other states have done (e.g., Louisiana).
Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs Has Alabama 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, and Minnesota).
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Less frequent recertification periods Has Alabama extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?	Yes.	N/A
Online services for all application processes Does Alabama offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?	Yes.	N/A