

Overview of SNAP Policy: Alaska has not adopted the Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) guidelines for SNAP receipt and continues to follow pre-established federal guidelines for eligibility. Unless every member of a family is receiving TANF cash assistance or SSI, parents must earn a gross income no higher than 130% FPL (or \$3,366/month for a family of three in 2024) and retain no more than \$2,750 in savings.

Alaska adjusts benefit levels by region and population density; in rural areas, benefits are 27-55% higher than in urban ones. Benefits for a family of three in rural areas range from \$1,253/month (47% FPL) to \$1,525/month (57% FPL) while in urban areas, the benefit is \$983/month (37% FPL).

Alaska currently **offers online services for the initial application, change reporting, and renewal of SNAP benefits** for most households, thereby reducing administrative costs and streamlining processes for working families. Additionally, the state **provides families with a 12-month recertification period**.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: By adopting BBCE, Alaska could **raise its gross income limit for families up to 200% FPL** (or \$5,378/month for a family of three). This would increase food security for more families and decrease the risk of households facing a benefit cliff for SNAP eligibility at lower income levels. Under BBCE, Alaska could also **increase or eliminate the asset test**. This would allow families to retain their savings and still receive nutritional assistance, enabling them to build economic security for larger expenses and their children's education.

Additionally, **treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions** would expand eligibility to more families. **Using state funds to provide SNAP to immigrant households with children who are ineligible under federal regulations** would also benefit young children's development and support economic security, particularly for newly-arrived families.

By providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefits for several months, Alaska could offer more consistent support to low-income families through a critical period of acute needs. Alaska may also consider **fully eliminating the eligibility ban for those with drug-related felony convictions**.¹

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>.

Alaska’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>	<p>\$3,366/month (130% FPL for an Alaskan family of three in 2024).</p>	<p>Consider adopting BBCE standards and extending the gross income limit to families earning up to 200% FPL (\$5,378 for an Alaska family of three in 2024).</p> <p>Alternatively, Texas has increased its gross income limit to 165% FPL (\$4,437 in Alaska by 2024 standards).</p>
<p>Asset Limit</p> <p>How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?</p>	<p>Families can retain up to \$2,750.</p>	<p>Remove the asset limit so households with children can retain savings while receiving nutritional support (e.g., Georgia).</p> <p>Alternatively, raise the asset limit. Example: Texas permits \$5,000.</p>
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA)</p> <p>Does Alaska provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider providing TBA to families transitioning from TANF cash assistance, as other states are doing (e.g., Colorado, Hawaii, Georgia).</p>

Alaska's Food Stamps (SNAP) Policy		
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Treatment of child support payments to non-household members</p> <p>Does Alaska treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?</p>	No.	Enable more families to qualify for SNAP by treating child support payments as income exclusions in the eligibility process (e.g., Washington, South Dakota).
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	Alaska modified its ban to permit those with drug-related convictions to receive benefits if they have completed a sentence; are compliant with their supervision or probation terms; and/or are participating in treatment.	Consider fully eliminating the ban on those convicted of drug-related felonies, as other states have done (e.g., Oregon and Washington).
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Alaska extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	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
<p>Less frequent recertification periods</p> <p>Has Alaska extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	Yes.	N/A

Alaska's Food Stamps (SNAP) Policy		
<p>Online services for all application processes</p>		
<p>Does Alaska offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>