Overview of SNAP Policy: Colorado's adoption of flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) has expanded eligibility for food stamps to more families. Importantly, **extending the gross income limit to 200% FPL** effectively reduces benefit cliffs for working parents as they earn higher incomes. Since Colorado has **eliminated its asset test** for BBCE-eligible households, families applying for SNAP can retain their savings and still receive nutritional assistance – an important determinant for economic mobility. Additionally, by **treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions**, Colorado further expands eligibility.

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.

Colorado has also **fully lifted the lifetime ban on eligibility for parents convicted of drug-related felonies**. Finally, by **providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefits for several months,** Colorado offers more consistent support to low-income families through a critical period of acute need.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: The state could consider **providing all households with children with a 12-month recertification period**.

Colorado could also follow other states by **exempting or reducing work requirements for parents enrolled in vocational training, GED, or ESL half-time** (or even less). Additionally, **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]

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[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.

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Colorado'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?	$4,054*/month (200% FPL for a Colorado 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 Does Colorado provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?	Yes.	N/A
* 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 Colorado treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?	Yes.	N/A
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 Colorado 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 Colorado extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?	No.	**Consider extending recertification periods to 12 months for all families to reduce administration costs and streamline processes for working parents, as many states have done (e.g., Washington, Alaska).**
Online services for all application processes Does Colorado offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?	Yes.	N/A

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