

Overview of SNAP Policy: Delaware’s adoption of flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt has expanded eligibility for food stamps to more families. Importantly, the **extending the gross income limit to 200% FPL** effectively reduces benefit cliffs for working parents as they earn higher incomes. Since the state **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, 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.

Delaware has also **fully lifted the lifetime ban on eligibility for those convicted of drug-related felonies**.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: 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.

The state could also consider **extending recertification periods to twelve months for all households with children**. Currently, families with seasonal or migrant farm workers, those experiencing homelessness, or those determined to be in “unstable circumstances” according to administrators must recertify their eligibility every six months.

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

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>.

Delaware’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>\$3,840*/month (or 200% FPL for a Delaware family of three in 2024).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Asset Limit</p> <p>How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?</p>	<p>There is no limit on savings for BBCE-eligible families.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA)</p> <p>Does Delaware 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., Maryland, Colorado, Washington DC).</p>
<p>* Current administrative guidelines may present different income amounts depending on when updates to the current federal poverty guidelines are implemented.</p>		
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Treatment of child support payments to non-household members</p> <p>Does Delaware treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Enable more families to qualify for SNAP by treating child support payments as income exclusions in the eligibility process (e.g., Colorado, Illinois).</p>

<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Delaware extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, and Minnesota).</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS</p>		
<p>Flexibility</p>	<p>Current policy</p>	<p>Potential improvement</p>
<p>Less frequent recertification periods</p> <p>Has Delaware extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	<p>No. Certain families must still recertify every six months.</p>	<p>Extend recertification periods to 12 months for all parents to reduce administration costs and streamline processes for working parents, as other states have done (e.g., Washington).</p>
<p>Online services for all application processes</p> <p>Does Delaware offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>