

Overview of SNAP Policy: Since Georgia has adopted flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt, the state has **eliminated its asset test**. This enables parents to retain their savings while receiving nutritional assistance – an important determinant for economic mobility.

By **providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefit assistance for several months**, Georgia offers consistent support to low-income families through a critical period of acute need.

The state has **modified the federal lifetime ban on eligibility for those convicted of drug-related felonies**, granting eligibility to those who have completed a sentence or are compliant with the terms of their supervision, probation, or treatment.

Georgia also **provides all families with a 12-month recertification period, requires parents to report income changes only when income rises above eligibility limits, and offers online services for its initial application, change reporting, and renewal of SNAP benefits**. These services all ease administrative burdens that can limit families from accessing nutritional support even when they are eligible, as seen in other states.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: Currently, families cannot qualify for SNAP benefits if their gross income exceeds 130% FPL (\$2,797/month for a family of three in 2024). Because it has adopted the BBCE framework, Georgia could **extend the gross income limit to 200% FPL** to reduce benefit cliffs for working parents as they earn higher incomes. The state could also consider **eliminating the net asset test for BBCE-eligible households** to simplify SNAP's administrative processes and making the benefit accessible to more families.

Treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions would expand SNAP eligibility to more families. Additionally, **using state funds to provide SNAP to immigrant households with children who are ineligible under federal regulations** would benefit the 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>.

Georgia’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?	\$2,694*/month (or 130% FPL for a Georgia 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.	N/A
Net income limit Has Georgia used the BBCE framework to eliminate the net income limit?	Yes.	N/A
Transitional Benefit Alternative Does Georgia 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 Georgia 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 (e.g., Louisiana and Virginia).

<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	<p>Georgia has modified its ban to grant eligibility to those convicted if they have completed a sentence or been compliant with the terms of their supervision, probation, or treatment.</p>	<p>Consider eliminating the ban entirely, as other states have (e.g., Mississippi).</p>
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Georgia 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 Georgia extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Online services for all application processes</p> <p>Does Georgia offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>