

Overview of SNAP Policy: Kentucky’s adoption of flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt 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 the state has **eliminated its asset test**, families applying for SNAP can retain their savings and still receive nutritional assistance – an important determinant for economic mobility. Kentucky has also **eliminated its net asset test for BBCE-eligible households**, simplifying SNAP’s administrative processes and making the benefit accessible to more families.

Kentucky **provides 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 the 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. Kentucky has also **fully lifted the lifetime ban on eligibility for parents 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. Additionally, **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.

Further, 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>.

Kentucky’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?	\$4,144*/month (or 200% FPL for a Kentucky 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
Net income limit Has Kentucky used the BBCE framework to eliminate the net income limit?	Yes.	N/A
Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA) Does Kentucky provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?	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
Treatment of child support payments to non-household members Does Kentucky 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., Virginia, South Dakota).
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Kentucky 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 Kentucky extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<p>Online services for all application processes</p> <p>Does Kentucky offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	Yes.	N/A