

Overview of SNAP Policy: Since 2020, Louisiana’s gradual adoption of flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt has expanded eligibility for food stamps to more families, though 2023 take-up numbers are not yet available. Importantly, **extending the gross income limit to 200% FPL** effectively reduces benefit cliffs for parents as they increase workforce participation. **Treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions** also enables eligibility for more families.

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.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: It is important to ensure that administrators are following intended practices to expand eligibility to the greatest number of families through BBCE. **BBCE enrollment can significantly ease administrative burdens** for program participants and costs for agencies.

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, Louisiana could **use state funds to provide SNAP to some federally ineligible noncitizens with children**, to 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>.

Louisiana'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?	200% FPL (or \$4,144/month for a Louisiana family of three in 2024).	N/A
Asset Limit How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?	Louisiana has no asset test for BBCE-eligible families.	N/A
Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA) Does Louisiana 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 Louisiana 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

<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Louisiana 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 Louisiana 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 Louisiana offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>