

**Overview of SNAP Policy:** Maryland’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 Maryland has **eliminated its asset test**, families applying for SNAP can retain their savings and still receive nutritional assistance – an important determinant for economic mobility. The state has also **eliminated its net asset test for BBCE-eligible households**, simplifying SNAP’s administrative processes and making the benefit accessible to more families.

Maryland **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. Maryland has also **modified the lifetime ban on eligibility for parents convicted of drug-related felonies to extend eligibility to those compliant with their testing and treatment requirements.**

**Assessment of SNAP Policy:** Treating child support payments to non-household members as **income exclusions rather than deductions** would expand SNAP eligibility to more families. Additionally, by **providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefit assistance for several months**, Maryland could 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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<b>Maryland's Food Stamps (SNAP) Policy</b>		
<b>WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS?</b>		
<b>Flexibility</b>	<b>Current policy</b>	<b>Potential improvement</b>
<b>Gross income limit</b>  How much can family members earn while being eligible?	\$4,144*/month (or 200% FPL for a Maryland family of three in 2024).	N/A
<b>Asset limit</b>  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
<b>Net income limit</b>  Has Maryland used the BBCE framework to eliminate the net income limit?	Yes.	N/A
<b>Transitional Benefit Alternative</b>  Does Maryland 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.		
<b>ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS</b>		
<b>Flexibility</b>	<b>Current policy</b>	<b>Potential improvement</b>
<b>Treatment of child support payments to non-household members</b>  Does Maryland treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?	No.	<b>Enable more families to qualify for SNAP by treating child support payments as income exclusions in the eligibility process (e.g., Virginia, South Dakota).</b>

<p><b>Lifting drug felony bans</b></p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	<p>Maryland has modified the ban to extend eligibility to parents who are compliant with treatment and testing requirements.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</b></p> <p>Has Maryland extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p><b>Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, and Minnesota).</b></p>
<p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS</b></p>		
<p><b>Flexibility</b></p>	<p><b>Current policy</b></p>	<p><b>Potential improvement</b></p>
<p><b>Less frequent recertification periods</b></p> <p>Has Maryland extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Online services for all application processes</b></p> <p>Does Maryland offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>