

Overview of SNAP Policy: Minnesota’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 Minnesota has **removed 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.

The state also **offers online services for its initial application**, 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: The state could consider **extending recertification periods to twelve months for all households with children** and **expanding their online services to change reporting and renewal processes**. Additionally, **treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions** would expand eligibility to more families.

Providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefits for several months would offer more consistent support to low-income families through a critical period of acute need.

Minnesota allows state agencies to decide whether random drug testing on some adults with previous convictions for drug-related felonies is required to maintain eligibility. The state may consider **fully lifting the lifetime ban on eligibility for those convicted of drug-related felonies**, as many other states have done.

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>.

Minnesota'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?	\$4,303*/month (or 200% FPL for a Minnesota 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
Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA) Does Minnesota provide families 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 do (e.g., Illinois, Washington).
* 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 Minnesota 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., South Dakota).
Lifting drug felony bans Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?	Minnesota has modified their ban to extend eligibility to parents with previous convictions, though they "may	Consider fully eliminating the ban, as other states have done (e.g., North Dakota, Ohio).

	be subject to random drug testing” at the discretion of the agency.	
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Minnesota extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	<p>Yes, although individuals who qualify must be at least 50 years of age.</p>	<p>Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine).</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Less frequent recertification periods</p> <p>Has Minnesota extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	<p>Yes, although some families may be subject to shorter recertification periods to align with another program’s review process or if the agency determines that a household appears likely to soon lose SNAP eligibility.</p>	<p>Extend recertification periods to 12 months for all families with children to streamline processes for more households, as other states have done (e.g., Washington, Alaska).</p>
<p>Online services for all application processes</p> <p>Does Minnesota offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Only initial SNAP applications can be completed online.</p>	<p>Consider offering all administrative processes online, as other states do (e.g., North Dakota, South Dakota).</p>