

Overview of SNAP Policy: New Mexico's adoption of flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt has expanded eligibility for food stamps to more families. Importantly, the **increased gross income limit (to 165% FPL)** enables more families to receive nutritional support so critical to children's early development.¹ Since New Mexico 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.

Providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefit assistance for several months supports low-income families through challenging periods.

The state has also **fully eliminated the ban on eligibility for parents convicted of drug-related felonies.**

New Mexico **offers online services for its initial applications** and **extends 12-month recertification periods to all families**, thereby easing the administrative burdens that can prevent families from accessing nutritional support even when they are eligible.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: Under the flexibilities provided to New Mexico under BBCE, the state could **extend the gross income limit to 200% FPL for all families with children** to reduce benefit cliffs for parents as they increase workforce participation and earn higher incomes. **Treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions** would also expand eligibility to more families.

Providing online services for income change reporting and renewal of SNAP benefits would streamline access for families by reducing administrative barriers and costs. 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.

New Mexico's Food Stamps (SNAP) Policy		
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Gross income limit</p> <p>How much can family members earn while being eligible?</p>	<p>\$3,551*/month (or 165% FPL for a New Mexico family of three).</p>	<p>Consider extending gross income limit to 200% FPL for all families with children regardless of dependent care expenses, as almost half of all states have done (e.g., Michigan and Minnesota).</p>
<p>Asset Limit</p> <p>How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?</p>	<p>There is no limit on savings for BBCE-eligible families with a gross income limit of 165% FPL.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative</p> <p>Does New Mexico provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>* Current administrative guidelines may present different income amounts depending on when updates to the current federal poverty guidelines are implemented.</p>		
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Treatment of child support payments to non-household members</p> <p>Does New Mexico treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Enable more families to qualify for SNAP by treating child support payments as income exclusions in the eligibility process (e.g., Colorado, Illinois).</p>

<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has New Mexico extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	No.	<p>Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, and Minnesota).</p>
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	Yes.	N/A
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Less frequent recertification periods</p> <p>Has New Mexico extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	Yes.	N/A
<p>Online services for all application processes</p> <p>Does New Mexico offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	New Mexico only provides online services for its initial application.	<p>Consider providing online services for change reporting and benefit renewal as well, as many other states have done (e.g., Colorado, Nebraska).</p>

¹ For research detailing effects of some state-level TANF policies and administrative practices on children and families, see <https://www.nccp.org/ec-profiles-pes-policies-related-research-and-resources/#parenting>.