

**Overview of SNAP Policy:** New York’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 for families with dependent care** effectively reduces benefit cliffs for those families. Because New York has **eliminated its asset test for eligible families**, more households applying for SNAP can retain their savings and still receive nutritional assistance – an important determinant for economic mobility. **Treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions** also expands eligibility to more families.

**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. New York has also **fully lifted the lifetime ban on eligibility for those convicted of drug-related felonies**.

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. However, recertification periods vary from six to twelve months depending on the type of case.

**Assessment of SNAP Policy:** Under the flexibilities provided to New York under BBCE, the state could **extend the gross income limit to 200% FPL for all families with children regardless of dependent care expenses**. This change protects parents from benefit cliffs and promotes full workforce participation that enables more families to transition off SNAP gradually and effectively.

Additionally, **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.

**Extending recertification periods to twelve months for all households with children** would also reduce administrative barriers for families and costs for the state.<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>.

New York’s Food Stamps (SNAP) Policy		
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p><b>Gross income limit</b></p> <p>How much can family members earn while being eligible?</p>	<p>\$4,303/month (or 200% FPL) for a New York family of three in 2024 <b>with dependent care expenses</b>.</p> <p>For families with earned income but without dependent care expenses: \$3,228/month (or 150% FPL).</p> <p>For families without both earned income and dependent care expenses: \$2,797/month (or 130% FPL).</p>	<p><b>Consider extending the gross income limit to 200% FPL for all families with children regardless of dependent care expenses, as almost half of states have done (e.g., Michigan, Minnesota).</b></p>
<p><b>Asset Limit</b></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 gross income limits of 150% FPL or 200% FPL.</p>	<p><b>Eliminate asset tests on savings for all households with children. Half of states have legislated this (e.g., Vermont, Wisconsin, Oklahoma).</b></p>
<p><b>Transitional Benefit Alternative</b></p> <p>Does New York 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><b>Treatment of child support payments to non-household members</b></p>		

Does New York treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?	Yes.	N/A
<b>Lifting drug felony bans</b> Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?	Yes.	N/A
<b>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</b> Has New York extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?	No.	<b>Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, and Minnesota).</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS</b>		
<b>Flexibility</b>	<b>Current policy</b>	<b>Potential improvement</b>
<b>Less frequent recertification periods</b> Has New York extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?	No. Recertification periods range from six to twelve months depending on the type of case.	<b>Extend recertification to 12 months for all households, as twelve other states have done (e.g., Alabama, Kansas).</b>
<b>Online services for all application processes</b> Does New York offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?	Yes.	N/A