

Overview of SNAP Policy: North Carolina’s adoption of flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt has **expanded eligibility to families earning up to 200% FPL (\$4,144/month in 2024)** and **removed the asset limit**. Families with savings or “rainy day funds” are less likely to experience cumulative material hardships, remain dependent on social benefit programs, or return to dependence on them later.

North Carolina has also **modified the ban on eligibility for adults with drug-related felony convictions** to extend benefit access to parents who have completed their sentence or are compliant with the terms of their supervision, probation, and/or treatment. Additionally, the state **offers online services for initial applications** and **requires income reporting only when earnings rise above eligibility limits**.

By **providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefit assistance for several months**, North Carolina offers consistent support to low-income families through a critical period of acute need.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: **Treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions** would expand eligibility to more families.

Additionally, **extending recertification periods to at least twelve months for all eligible families** and **offering online services for income change reporting and renewal of SNAP benefits** would ease the administrative burdens that can limit families from accessing nutritional support even when they are eligible.

North Carolina could also consider **using state funds to provide SNAP to some federally ineligible noncitizens** to further 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>.

North Carolina’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>\$4,144*/month (or 200% FPL for a North Carolina family of three in 2024).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Asset Limit</p> <p>How many assets can families retain in savings and other accounts while still being eligible for food stamps?</p>	<p>There is no asset limit for BBCE-eligible families.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative</p> <p>Does North Carolina 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 North Carolina 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., Virginia, South Dakota).</p>
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p>		

Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?	North Carolina has modified its ban to offer eligibility to parents after a release from custody and/or a “disqualification period.”	Consider eliminating the ban entirely, as other states have done (e.g., Louisiana, Mississippi).
Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs Has North Carolina extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?	No.	Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, and Minnesota).
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Less frequent recertification periods Has North Carolina extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?	No. Parents must recertify every six months to maintain eligibility.	Extend recertification to 12 months for all households, as twelve other states have done (e.g., Alabama, Kansas).
Online services for all application processes Does North Carolina offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?	North Carolina only provides online services for its initial application.	Consider providing all processes online, as many state are now doing (e.g., Alabama, West Virginia).