

Overview of SNAP Policy: South Carolina’s adoption of flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt has expanded eligibility for food stamps to more families by **removing the asset limit for BBCE-eligible households.**

The state **offers online services for its initial application and renewal processes**, thereby easing the administrative burdens that limit families from accessing nutritional support even when they are eligible.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: Under the flexibilities provided to South Carolina under BBCE, the state could **extend the gross income limit to 200% FPL** for all families with children, enabling more parents and children to receive nutritional support. **Treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions** would also enable eligibility for more families.

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. Additionally, **providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefits for several months** would support low-income families through challenging periods.

Finally, **extending recertification periods from six to twelve months for all households with children and enabling reporting of income changes online** would alleviate administrative burdens on parents and lower costs for the state.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>.

South 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>\$2,797*/month (or 130% FPL for a family of three in 2024).</p>	<p>Consider extending the gross income limit to 200% FPL for BBCE-eligible families, as many other states have done (e.g., Louisiana).</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 the funds families can retain.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA)</p> <p>Does South Carolina provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider providing TBA to families transitioning from TANF cash assistance, as other states are doing (e.g., North Carolina, Georgia).</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 South 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> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	<p>No. Any parent with a conviction after 1996 is ineligible for cash assistance.</p>	<p>Eliminate the eligibility ban for those convicted of drug-related felonies, as other states have done (e.g., Arkansas, Mississippi).</p>
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has South Carolina extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, and Minnesota).</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS</p>		
<p>Flexibility</p>	<p>Current policy</p>	<p>Potential improvement</p>
<p>Less frequent recertification periods</p> <p>Has South Carolina extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	<p>No. Parents must recertify every six months.</p>	<p>Extend recertification periods to twelve months for all families, as many other states have done (e.g., Oklahoma, Louisiana).</p>
<p>Online services for all application processes</p> <p>Does South Carolina offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of income changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>All services are online except for reporting income changes.</p>	<p>Provide online services for reporting income changes, as many other states do (e.g., Mississippi).</p>