

Overview of SNAP Policy: Since South Dakota has **not adopted Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt**, a family of three in the state cannot qualify for benefits if their gross income exceeds \$2,694/month (130% FPL). Likewise, families cannot retain assets of value greater than \$2,750.

With respect to administrative burden, South Dakota **provides 12-month recertification period, enables parents to report income changes only when income rises above eligibility limits, and offers online services for its initial application, change reporting, and renewal processes.** These services all ease administrative burdens that can limit families from accessing nutritional support even when they are eligible. South Dakota has also fully **lifted the lifetime ban on eligibility for parents convicted of drug-related felonies.**

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

Assessment of SNAP Policy: Under the flexibilities provided to South Dakota under BBCE, the state could **extend the gross income limit to 200% FPL for families with children.** Similarly, the state could **remove or increase its 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. Parents capable of retaining greater assets are also more likely to have the resources to invest in homes or their children’s education down the line.

Further, **treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions** would further expand eligibility to more 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>.

South Dakota’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 South Dakota family of three in 2024).</p>	<p>Consider adopting BBCE and extending gross income limit to 200% FPL for 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 savings for families that are eligible for expanded eligibility.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative</p> <p>Does South Dakota 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 South Dakota treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has South Dakota 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 Dakota extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Simplified income reporting</p> <p>Does South Dakota require parents to report income only when it rises above the eligibility limit?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Online services for all application processes</p> <p>Does South Dakota offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>