

Overview of SNAP Policy: Since Texas has adopted flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt, the state has **extended its gross income limit to 165%** and **slightly increased its asset limit**. These steps enable more families to benefit from nutritional assistance and allow parents to retain more savings – an important determinant for economic mobility.

The state has **modified the federal lifetime ban on eligibility for those convicted of drug-related felonies** by granting conditional SNAP access to those with convictions. Under the state's terms, parole or community supervision violations may result in a two-year suspension and a second felony charge results in permanent program disqualification.

Texas **requires parents to report income changes only when income rises above eligibility limits**, and **offers online services for its initial application, change reporting, and renewal of SNAP benefits**. These services all ease administrative burdens that can limit families from accessing nutritional support even when they are eligible, as seen in other states.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: Because it has adopted the BBCE framework, Texas could **raise its gross income limit to 200% FPL** and **further increase or eliminate the asset limit** to reduce benefit cliffs for working parents as they earn higher incomes. The state could also consider **eliminating the net asset test for BBCE-eligible households** to simplify SNAP's administrative processes and make the benefit accessible to more families.

Providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefits for several months would offer more consistent support to low-income families through a critical period of acute need.

Treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions would expand SNAP eligibility to more families. Texas could also consider **fully eliminating the ban on eligibility for adults convicted of drug-related felonies** as many other states have. **Extending recertification periods to twelve months** would also ease parents' administrative burdens in accessing the program.

Additionally, **using state funds to provide SNAP to immigrant households with children who are ineligible under federal regulations** would benefit the 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>.

Texas’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>\$3,550*/month (or 165% FPL for a Texas family of three in 2024).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Asset limit</p> <p>How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?</p>	<p>Families can retain up to \$5,000 in liquid assets and excess vehicle value.</p>	<p>Consider eliminating the asset limit, as many states have (e.g., South Carolina, Montana, Kentucky).</p>
<p>Net income limit</p> <p>Has Texas used the BBCE framework to eliminate the net income limit?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider eliminating the net income limit (e.g., Kentucky).</p>
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA)</p> <p>Does Texas 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).</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 Texas treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Enable more families to qualify for SNAP by treating child support payments as income exclusions in the eligibility</p>

deduction?		process (e.g., Louisiana, Virginia).
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	<p>Texas has modified its ban to grant eligibility to those convicted if they are compliant with the terms of their supervision or probation.</p>	<p>Consider fully eliminating the ban, as other states have (e.g., Mississippi).</p>
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Texas 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>
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Less frequent recertification periods</p> <p>Has Texas extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider extending recertification periods to 12 months (e.g., West Virginia, Oklahoma).</p>
<p>Online services for all application processes</p> <p>Does Texas offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>