

**Overview of SNAP Policy:** Virginia’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** effectively reduces benefit cliffs for working parents as they earn higher incomes. Since Virginia has **eliminated its asset test** for BBCE-eligible households, families applying for SNAP can retain their savings and still receive nutritional assistance – an important determinant for economic mobility. Additionally, by **treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions**, Virginia further expands eligibility to more families.

Additionally, the state **provides 12-month recertification periods for most families, requires reporting of income only when earnings increase above the eligibility limit, and offers online services for its initial application, change reporting, and renewal of SNAP benefits.** Together these services ease the administrative burdens that can limit families from accessing support even when they are eligible.

Virginia has **eliminated the lifetime ban on eligibility for those convicted of drug-related felonies.** Further, **by providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefits for several months,** Virginia offers more consistent support to low-income families through a critical period of acute need.

**Assessment of SNAP Policy:** 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.<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>.

Virginia's Food Stamps (SNAP) Policy		
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<b>Gross income limit</b>  How much can family members earn while being eligible?	\$4,143*/month (200% FPL for a Virginia family of three in 2024).	N/A
<b>Asset Limit</b>  How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?	There is no limit on savings for BBCE-eligible families.	N/A
<b>Transitional Benefit Alternative</b>  Does Virginia provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?	Yes.	N/A
* Current administrative guidelines may present different income amounts depending on when updates to the current federal poverty guidelines are implemented.		
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<b>Treatment of child support payments to non-household members</b>  Does Virginia 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

<p><b>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</b></p> <p>Has Virginia extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p><b>Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, and Minnesota).</b></p>
<p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS</b></p>		
<p><b>Flexibility</b></p>	<p><b>Current policy</b></p>	<p><b>Potential improvement</b></p>
<p><b>Less frequent recertification periods</b></p> <p>Has Virginia extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	<p>Yes, for most families.</p>	<p><b>Provide 12-month recertification periods to all families to reduce administration costs and streamline processes for working parents, as many states have done (e.g., Washington, Alaska).</b></p>
<p><b>Online services for all application processes</b></p> <p>Does Virginia offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>