

Montana’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 a family of three earn and remain eligible?</p>	<p>\$4,303*/month for families eligible through the Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) framework, or 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a 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>There is no limit on savings for BBCE-eligible families.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA)</p> <p>Does Montana 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 to support families with children during vulnerable periods (e.g., Oklahoma, Nebraska).</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 Montana 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, as many other states</p>

		are doing (e.g., South Dakota, Missouri).
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	<p>Montana has modified its ban to offer eligibility to those who have discharged their conviction sentence and to those compliant with the conditions of supervision/probation, including participating in any treatment determined to be required.</p>	<p>Consider fully eliminating the ban of those convicted of drug-related felonies, as other states have done (e.g., Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota).</p>
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Montana extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider using state funds to provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, Minnesota).</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Less frequent recertification periods</p> <p>Has Montana 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 Montana 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 Montana offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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