

Rhode Island'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>\$3,981*/month for families eligible through the Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) framework, or 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of three in 2024.</p>	<p>Consider extending gross income limit to 200% FPL for BBCE-eligible families, as many other states have done (e.g., Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine).</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 Rhode Island provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Consider providing SNAP to families transitioning from TANF cash assistance, as other states are doing (e.g., Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine).</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 Rhode Island treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Lifting drug felony bans Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?	Yes.	N/A
Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs Has Rhode Island extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?	No.	Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, Minnesota).
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Less frequent recertification periods Has Rhode Island extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?	Yes.	N/A
Simplified income reporting Does Rhode Island require parents to report income only when it rises above the eligibility limit?	Yes.	N/A
Online services for all application processes Does Rhode Island offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?	No. Services are provided online for the initial application and renewal, but not change reporting.	Consider providing online change reporting services to reduce administrative costs and streamline processes for busy parents.