

Tennessee’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>\$2,797*/month, or 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of three in 2024.</p>	<p>Consider adopting Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) and extending gross income limit to 200% FPL for eligible families, as many other states have done (e.g., Kentucky, Louisiana) in order to mitigate benefit cliffs and provide more households with nutritional assistance.</p>
<p>Asset Limit</p> <p>How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?</p>	<p>For most families, the asset limit is \$3,000.</p>	<p>Adopting BBCE would enable the state to remove the asset limit so households with children can retain savings while receiving nutritional support (e.g., Georgia).</p> <p>Alternatively, consider increasing the asset limit. Example: Texas permits \$5,000.</p>
<p>Transitional Benefit Alternative</p> <p>Does Tennessee 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 Tennessee treat child support payments made to non-household members as an income exclusion rather than a deduction?</p>	No.	Enable more families to qualify for SNAP by treating child support payments as income exclusions in the eligibility process (e.g., Virginia, Louisiana, Missouri).
<p>Lifting drug felony bans</p> <p>Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?</p>	Tennessee has modified its ban to extend eligibility to those who are compliant with court-imposed obligations, including treatment programs.	Consider fully eliminating the ban on those convicted of drug-related felonies, as other states have done (e.g., Kentucky, Iowa).
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Tennessee extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	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
<p>Less frequent recertification periods</p> <p>Has Tennessee extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	No, some families with children and able-bodied working adults may only be certified for 4-6 months.	Extend recertification periods to 12 months for all families in order to reduce administration costs for working parents, as many other states have done (e.g., Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia).

<p>Simplified income reporting</p> <p>Does Tennessee 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 Tennessee offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	<p>No. Services are provided online for the initial application and renewal, but not change reporting.</p>	<p>Consider providing online change reporting services to reduce administrative costs and streamline processes for busy parents (e.g., Oklahoma, Kentucky, Kansas).</p>