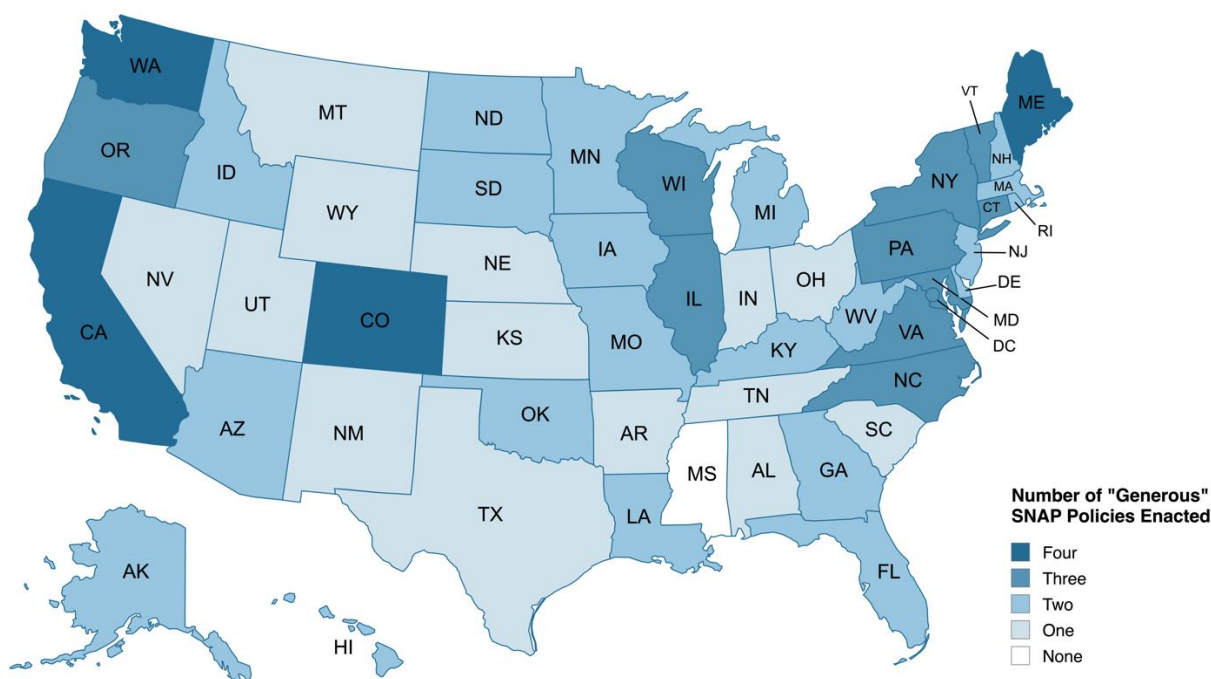


The National Center for Children in Poverty's (NCCP) [50-State Comparison of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program \(SNAP\)<sup>1</sup> Policies Linked to Child and Family Protection](#) for the program can support the work of policymakers and advocates. In states that enacted them during the years 2004 through 2016, each of four policies included here contributed to reductions in child maltreatment, child neglect, and foster care placements by increasing the number of households participating in the program.<sup>2,3,4</sup> These SNAP state-level policy options include:

- Providing nutritional assistance to families with levels of income higher than 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).<sup>5</sup>
- Excluding legally obligated child support payments owed to other households from income during eligibility determination.<sup>6</sup>
- Granting all families with children simplified reporting to reduce administrative burdens when income or household circumstances change.<sup>7</sup>
- Providing transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving a state cash assistance program (TANF).<sup>8</sup>

NCCP assumes that the relationships between these SNAP state-level policies and child and family protection outcomes persist. Since the *cumulative* number of adopted policies has an especially strong association with child and family well-being, we provide a count, or scorecard, of how many of the policies each state each state adopted as of 2024, ranging from zero to four.<sup>9</sup>



Although not included in this analysis, the enactment of other state-level policies is also likely to increase program participation, resulting in improved outcomes for children and their families. NCCP provides extensive state-level research on those policies and other programs [here](#).

For questions, please contact [kchatfield@bankstreet.edu](mailto:kchatfield@bankstreet.edu).

State	Are families with gross income above 130% FPL eligible for the SNAP benefit?	Can parents exclude legally obligated child support payments to other households from their gross income for eligibility consideration?	Does the state provide transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF or state-funded cash assistance programs?	Does the state grant the simplified reporting option to all families with children experiencing changes in income or circumstances?	Count of SNAP policies (0-4)
Alabama	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	1
Alaska	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	2
Arizona	Yes, the state has increased the income eligibility threshold to 185% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	3
Arkansas	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	1
California	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	4
Colorado	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	4
Connecticut	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	3

State	Are families with gross income above 130% FPL eligible for the SNAP benefit?	Can parents exclude legally obligated child support payments to other households from their gross income for eligibility consideration?	Does the state provide transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF or state-funded cash assistance programs?	Does the state grant the simplified reporting option to all families with children experiencing changes in income or circumstances?	Count of SNAP policies (0-4)
Delaware	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	2
District of Columbia	Yes, the District has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	3
Florida	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	2
Georgia	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	2
Hawaii	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	No, not for all families with children. Families experiencing homelessness or that include seasonal farmworkers are subject to reporting requirements, as well as those in which all adult members are elderly or disabled and without earned income.	2
Idaho	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	1

State	Are families with gross income above 130% FPL eligible for the SNAP benefit?	Can parents exclude legally obligated child support payments to other households from their gross income for eligibility consideration?	Does the state provide transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF or state-funded cash assistance programs?	Does the state grant the simplified reporting option to all families with children experiencing changes in income or circumstances?	Count of SNAP policies (0-4)
Illinois	Yes, the state has increased the income eligibility threshold to 165% FPL.	Yes.	Yes.	No, not for all families with children. The state does not provide the simplified reporting to families also receiving TANF cash assistance with no earned income, or to families in which all adult members are either adult or disabled with no earned income.	3
Indiana	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	1
Iowa	Yes, the state has increased the income eligibility threshold to 160% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	2
Kansas	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	1
Kentucky	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	2
Louisiana	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	2
Maine	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	4

State	Are families with gross income above 130% FPL eligible for the SNAP benefit?	Can parents exclude legally obligated child support payments to other households from their gross income for eligibility consideration?	Does the state provide transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF or state-funded cash assistance programs?	Does the state grant the simplified reporting option to all families with children experiencing changes in income or circumstances?	Count of SNAP policies (0-4)
Maryland	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	3
Massachusetts	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families in which all members are applicants for or receive TANF, or to families with any elderly or disabled members.	2
Michigan	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	Yes.	No.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families that include migrants or seasonal farm workers.	2
Minnesota	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families experiencing homelessness, living on a reservation, or to families that include migrants or seasonal farm workers. <sup>10</sup>	1
Mississippi	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	No.	0
Missouri	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	Yes.	No, although legislation to provide it has passed.	Yes.	2

State	Are families with gross income above 130% FPL eligible for the SNAP benefit?	Can parents exclude legally obligated child support payments to other households from their gross income for eligibility consideration?	Does the state provide transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF or state-funded cash assistance programs?	Does the state grant the simplified reporting option to all families with children experiencing changes in income or circumstances?	Count of SNAP policies (0-4)
Montana	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families that include migrants or season farm workers, or to families without earned income in which all members (including children) are disabled.	1
Nebraska	Yes, the state has increased the income eligibility threshold to 165% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	3
Nevada	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families without earned income in which all members are either elderly or disabled (including disabled children).	1
New Hampshire	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families with recertification periods of 4, 5, or 6 months.	2
New Jersey	Yes, the state has increased the income eligibility threshold to 185% FPL.	Yes.	No.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families receiving TANF with only unearned income.	2

State	Are families with gross income above 130% FPL eligible for the SNAP benefit?	Can parents exclude legally obligated child support payments to other households from their gross income for eligibility consideration?	Does the state provide transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF or state-funded cash assistance programs?	Does the state grant the simplified reporting option to all families with children experiencing changes in income or circumstances?	Count of SNAP policies (0-4)
New Mexico	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	3
New York	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL for families with care expenses for children and to 150% FPL for households without care expenses.	Yes.	Yes.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families experiencing homelessness, or to those that include migrants or seasonal farm workers. Families with no income, those that are certified for less than 4 months, and those in which all adult members are elderly or disabled must also report all changes.	3
North Carolina	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	3
North Dakota	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	2
Ohio	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	1
Oklahoma	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	2

State	Are families with gross income above 130% FPL eligible for the SNAP benefit?	Can parents exclude legally obligated child support payments to other households from their gross income for eligibility consideration?	Does the state provide transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF or state-funded cash assistance programs?	Does the state grant the simplified reporting option to all families with children experiencing changes in income or circumstances?	Count of SNAP policies (0-4)
Oregon	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	Yes.	Yes.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families with at least one member employed under the TANF JOBS Plus program.	3
Pennsylvania	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	3
Rhode Island	Yes, the state has increased the income eligibility threshold to 185% FPL.	Yes.	No.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families including migrant or seasonal workers or those in which all members are elderly or disabled (including disabled children).	2
South Carolina	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	1
South Dakota	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	Yes.	No.	Yes.	2

State	Are families with gross income above 130% FPL eligible for the SNAP benefit?	Can parents exclude legally obligated child support payments to other households from their gross income for eligibility consideration?	Does the state provide transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF or state-funded cash assistance programs?	Does the state grant the simplified reporting option to all families with children experiencing changes in income or circumstances?	Count of SNAP policies (0-4)
Tennessee	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	Yes.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families with income only from self-employment or those assigned certification periods between 1 and 3 months.	1
Texas	Yes, the state has increased the income eligibility threshold to 165% FPL.	No.	No.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families who anticipate a change in circumstances or in which all members are disabled or elderly members, including disabled children.	1
Utah	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	1
Vermont	Yes, the state has increased the income eligibility threshold to 185% FPL.	Yes.	No.	Yes.	3
Virginia	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	Yes.	Yes.	No, not for all families. The state does not provide the simplified reporting option to families with unstable circumstances assigned to certification period less than 5 months.	3

State	Are families with gross income above 130% FPL eligible for the SNAP benefit?	Can parents exclude legally obligated child support payments to other households from their gross income for eligibility consideration?	Does the state provide transitional SNAP benefits to families leaving TANF or state-funded cash assistance programs?	Does the state grant the simplified reporting option to all families with children experiencing changes in income or circumstances?	Count of SNAP policies (0-4)
Washington	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	4
West Virginia	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	2
Wisconsin	Yes, the state has extended the income eligibility threshold to 200% FPL.	No.	Yes.	Yes.	3
Wyoming	No, the state maintains the income eligibility threshold at the federal default level of 130% FPL.	No.	No.	Yes.	1

*NCCP gratefully acknowledges those who have contributed in various ways to this resource, including the researchers who conducted the study highlighting the seven state policies and their effect on child and family protection outcomes, and particularly Professor Donna Ginther for her helpful clarification of data sources.*

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<sup>1</sup> The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), the most significant in-kind benefit support in the U.S., currently provides food stamps to more than 25 million individuals living in families with children both in and near poverty. Some states have expanded eligibility by changing guidelines to include households with slightly higher incomes and by streamlining administrative processes.

<sup>2</sup> Johnson-Motoyama, M., Ginther, D. K., Oslund, P., Jorgenson, L., Chung, Y., Phillips, R., ... & Sattler, P. L. (2022). Association between state Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program policies, child protective services involvement, and foster care in the US, 2004-2016. *JAMA network open*, 5(7), e2221509-e2221509.

<sup>3</sup> Outcome data for child maltreatment, child neglect, and foster care placements used in the analysis by Johnson-Motoyama, et al., was sourced for the relevant years from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS).

<sup>4</sup> Specifically, the adoption of each SNAP generosity policy is linked to average estimated reductions in these outcomes: 353 fewer reports accepted for CPS investigation per 100,000 children; 95 fewer substantiated reports of neglect per 100,000 children; and 45 fewer foster care placements per 100,000 children.

<sup>5</sup> States that adopt the Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) framework may increase their gross income eligibility threshold above 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), to as high as 200% of the FPL, enabling more families to qualify for the benefit. Among the 35 states along with DC have extended this income eligibility level. Note that of the 44 states that have adopted BBCE (along with D.C.), seven have elected to increase or alter the asset limit for SNAP but have not extended the gross income eligibility level for the program, so that it remains at 130% FPL.

<sup>6</sup> Fourteen states adopted this policy in 2024, which enables more families who are paying child support for children in another household to qualify for food stamps by reducing their countable income by the amount of that support. In other states, such child support payments to other households are treated as deductions in calculating benefit amounts, but fewer families pass the criterion for income eligibility.

<sup>7</sup> Thirty-four states and D.C. provided the simplified reporting option to all families receiving SNAP in 2024, thereby reducing administrative burdens for parents by relieving them of change reporting. This policy reduces administrative burden and enables steady participation in the SNAP program.

<sup>8</sup> In 2024, twenty-two states and D.C. provided transitional SNAP benefits for several months as households stopped receiving TANF cash assistance, bolstering low-income families during what is often a vulnerable time.

<sup>9</sup> SNAP policy updates were conducted through extensive review of administrative guidelines including those published in state administrative manuals and other resources. Additionally, NCCP researchers referred to recent and past state legislation in regulation of both programs.

<sup>10</sup> Families in which all adult members are either elderly or disabled with no earned income also must report all changes in Minnesota.