

Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) Is Not a SNAP Loophole



Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) allows states to consider cost of living, wages, and other local economic conditions when determining people's eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It does this by raising the gross income limit from the current standard of 130 percent of the federal poverty level.

With BBCE, SNAP applicants have a better chance of getting food assistance. But it's hardly an automatic pathway. There's still a rigorous process to access benefits. Eligible households under BBCE must still verify income, go through interviews, and comply with mandatory policies like time limits for childless adults.

The Trump Administration's proposal to end BBCE claims to be "closing a loophole" that makes it "easy" to get SNAP. But that's simply untrue. The reality is that ending BBCE would take away food assistance from people who've proven they need it through a robust application process.

Accessing SNAP **with** BBCE

- Gross income limit
- Asset test
- Complete and submit SNAP application
- Complete interview
- Register for work (if applicable)
- Provide proof of earned and unearned income
- Net income limit test
 - Provide proof of deductions*
 - Child care
 - Shelter
 - Utilities
 - Medical costs
- Report hours of work or training (if applicable)
- Receive and activate EBT card
- Update information for interim reporting (typically every 6 months)

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