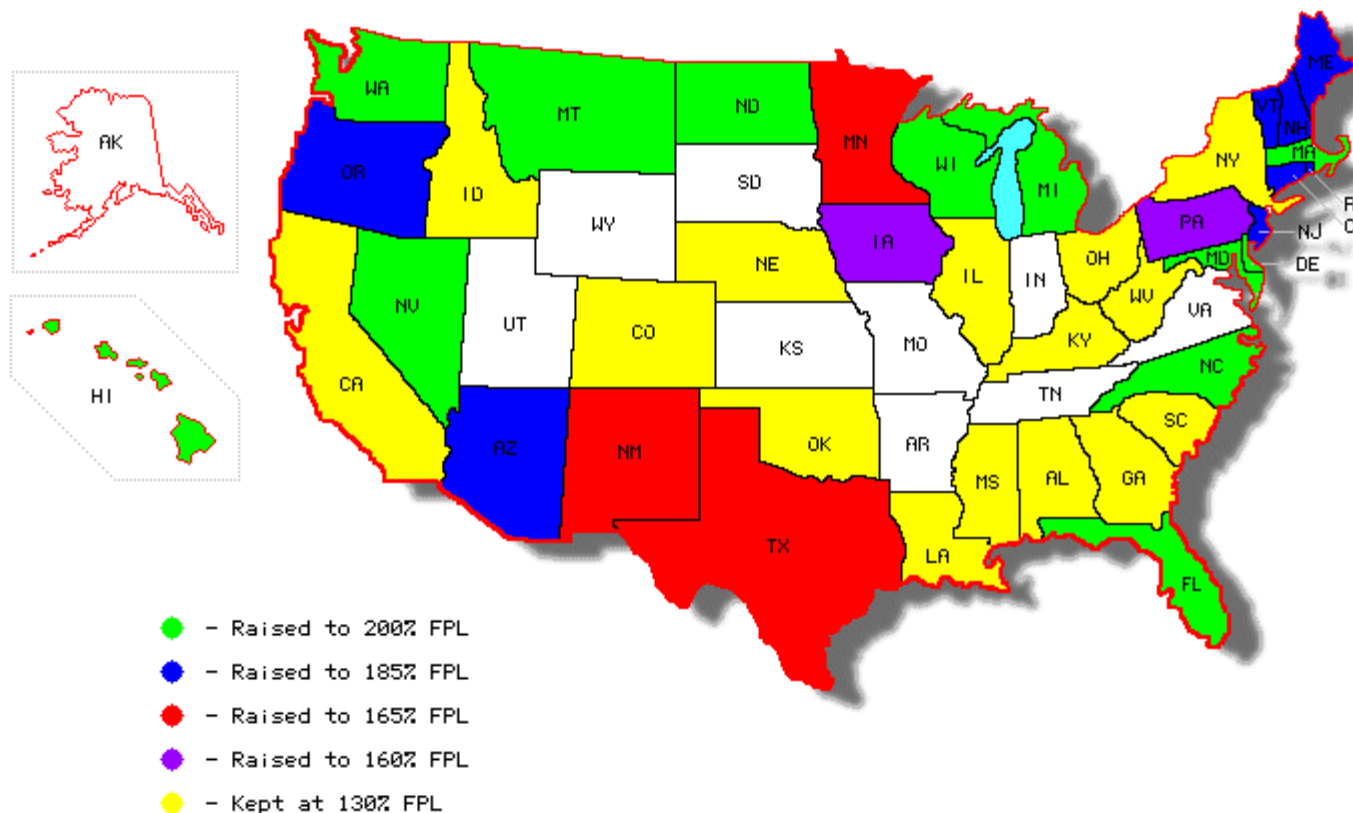


Expanding Access to SNAP

States that have raised the gross income test to increase access to the program for working families facing a high cost of living by adopting broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP



Raising the Gross Income Test

States can take advantage of a federal option known as "categorical eligibility" to expand access to SNAP by raising the income limit from 130 percent of federal poverty level to as high as 200 percent FPL. Raising the gross income test allows families with high costs (like child care costs, housing costs, and medical costs for elderly and disabled families) to access the benefits they need.

This map shows the states that have eliminated or raised the asset test by adopting broad-based categorical eligibility for SNAP.

For more information about ways for states to raise the SNAP gross income test and otherwise improve access to SNAP, see FRAC's "Heat and Eat: Using Federal Nutrition Programs to Soften Low-Income Households' Food/Fuel Dilemma" (March 2009), posted at www.frac.org/pdf/heat_and_eat09.pdf

Notes

- New Hampshire restricts categorical eligibility to households that include at least one dependent child.

Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Service,
www.fns.usda.gov/snap/rules/Memo/BBCE.pdf

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