

A SECOND CHANCE FOR FOOD SECURITY



Everyone Deserves Adequate Access To Food.

North Carolina can build on a growing list of Second-Chance policies by ensuring access to food assistance to North Carolinians reentering society. Under NC General Statute 108A-25.2, people with Class H or Class I drug felonies are barred access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP,” also known as “food stamps”) for a minimum of six months, and must meet special requirements which include drug treatment. People convicted of a Class G or higher drug felony are banned from SNAP benefits for life. [Now is the time to lift the felony drug SNAP Ban in North Carolina.](#)

Most states have fully opted out of the felony drug SNAP Ban.

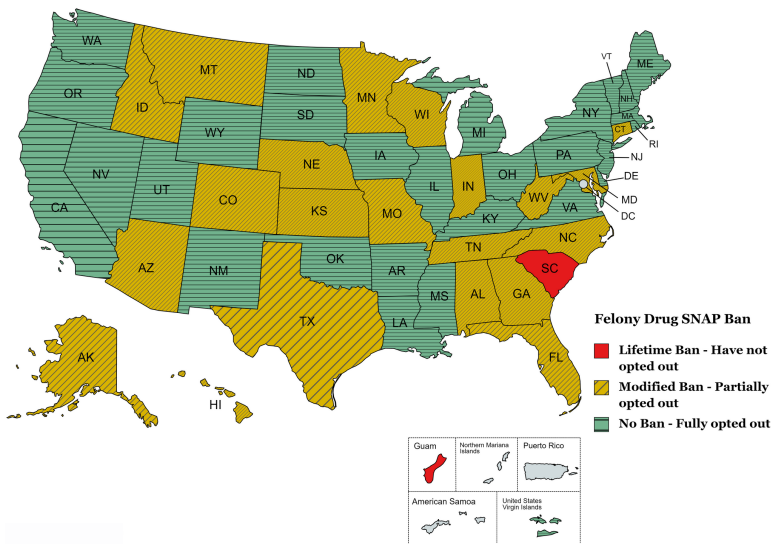
- As of April 2022, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and twenty-nine states - including Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana - have fully opted out of the drug felony SNAP ban.

The felony drug SNAP Ban disproportionately impacts women and children

- More than 70% of NC SNAP participants are in families with children
- In 2009, women were approximately twice as likely as men to receive SNAP benefits at some point of their lives.

The felony drug SNAP Ban undermines successful re-entry

- People re-entering communities after incarceration are more likely to face food insecurity than the general public.
- SNAP access reduces recidivism, helps offset challenges that arise from a criminal record, and ensures people's basic needs are met.



State Status of the Felony Drug SNAP Ban (April 2022).

NORTH CAROLINA SHOULD ELIMINATE THE FELONY DRUG SNAP BAN.

Learn More, visit NCJustice.org/Felony-Snap-Ban or contact Quisha Mallette at Quisha@NCJustice.org