

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.

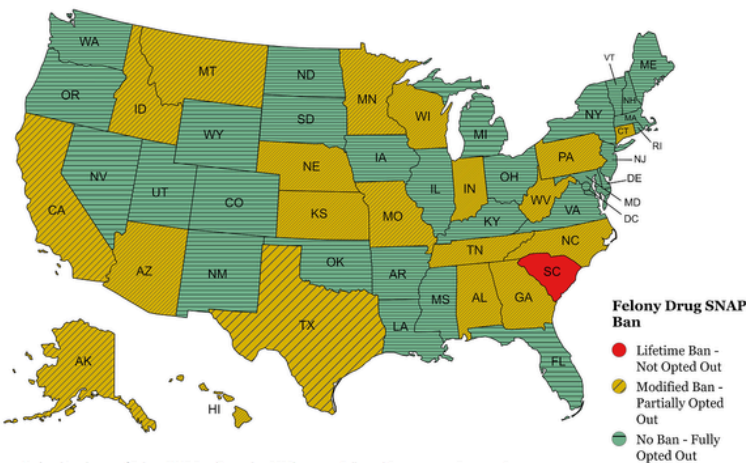
- As of December 2023, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and twenty-nine states - including Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana - have fully opted out of the drug felony SNAP ban.

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.



National Landscape of Felony Drug SNAP Ban (December 2023) - source Collateral Consequences Resource Center

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National Landscape of Felony Drug SNAP Ban (Dec. 2023))

Source: Collateral Consequence Resource Center

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