

**From:** [Valerie Rose](#)  
**To:** [Alexei Painter](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Log 14155 LFD Request: Broad-based Categorical SNAP Eligibility and Federal Changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 6:15:53 PM

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Hi Alexei,

Please see DOH's response to the questions posed in HFIN regarding broad-based categorical eligibility on 1/29.

Thanks,  
Val

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**From:** DOH-Budget Leg Log (DOH sponsored) <doh.budgetleglog@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 6:12:05 PM  
**To:** Valerie Rose <Valerie.Rose@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** DOH-Budget Leg Log (DOH sponsored) <doh.budgetleglog@alaska.gov>; Enright, Courtney F (DOH) <courtney.enright@alaska.gov>; pam.halloran@alaska.gov <pam.halloran@alaska.gov>; Hess, Tim S (GOV) <tim.hess@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** Log 14155 LFD Request: Broad-based Categorical SNAP Eligibility and Federal Changes

Valerie Rose,

Please see the response below to questions about broad-based categorical eligibility, related to Director Alexei Painter's presentation on January 29 to the House Finance Committee.

**Please speak to recent changes to the program at the federal level, and if this broad-based eligibility was to be un-done what the approximate cost to the State would be – the assumption being that the total cost to the State would be lower than it is projected to be under the new cost-sharing structure.**

Recent federal changes to SNAP under H.R. 1 expand work requirements and establish a future SNAP benefit cost-sharing requirement for states with persistently high payment error rates. These provisions apply regardless of whether a state operates Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE). BBCE does not affect SNAP benefit levels, federal matching rates, or the quality control thresholds that determine whether cost sharing applies.

If BBCE were undone, the state would not avoid or materially reduce projected exposure under the new federal cost-sharing structure. Any future cost sharing is driven by error rates and federal implementation timelines, not by eligibility options such as BBCE. While eliminating BBCE could modestly reduce participation, it would also increase administrative workload by reinstating asset testing and more complex eligibility determinations. As a result, eliminating BBCE is not expected to produce net cost savings to the state.

**What are the minimum eligibility requirements that states must adhere to under federal law? It would likely be helpful to include some context about how Alaska compares to those minimum requirements.**

Under federal law, states must apply minimum SNAP eligibility standards, including gross income limits generally set at 130 percent of the federal poverty level, net income limits at 100 percent of poverty, household composition rules, citizenship and work requirements, and uniform benefit calculation rules.

BBCE is a federally authorized option that allows states to modestly exceed certain income thresholds and waive the asset test. Alaska has adopted BBCE with a gross income limit of 200 percent of the federal poverty level, which remains within federal authority. Alaska's SNAP program continues to follow all federal benefit formulas, work requirements, and quality control standards, and its eligibility standards are not among the most expansive nationally.

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**From:** Valerie Rose <[Valerie.Rose@akleg.gov](mailto:Valerie.Rose@akleg.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 2, 2026 11:36 AM

**To:** Halloran, Pam C (DOH) <[pam.halloran@alaska.gov](mailto:pam.halloran@alaska.gov)>

**Cc:** Enright, Courtney F (DOH) <[courtney.enright@alaska.gov](mailto:courtney.enright@alaska.gov)>; Scown, Dustin R (DOH) <[dustin.scown@alaska.gov](mailto:dustin.scown@alaska.gov)>; Hess, Tim S (GOV) <[tim.hess@alaska.gov](mailto:tim.hess@alaska.gov)>

**Subject:** LFD Request: Broad-based Categorical SNAP Eligibility and Federal Changes

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Good morning Pam,

I am following up on a couple of questions that Representative Stapp asked during [last Thursday's House Finance Committee hearing](#) where Alexei finished providing his overview. At approximately 2:52 PM (about an hour and twelve minutes in) the Representative asks several questions related to the implementation of broad-based categorical eligibility legislation that aimed at expanding access to benefit services like SNAP. His questions center on recent changes to the program at the federal level, and if this broad-based eligibility was to be undone what the approximate cost to the State would be – the assumption being that the total cost to the State would be lower than it is projected to be under the new cost-sharing structure. Additionally, he wanted more information regarding the minimum eligibility

requirements that states must adhere to under federal law; while he did not explicitly state the question as such, it would likely be helpful to include some context about how Alaska compares to those minimum requirements.

At this time I do not have a requested deadline for a response but would aim for COB on Monday, 2/9. Please let me know if additional time is required.

Thank you,  
Valerie

**Valerie Rose**

Fiscal Analyst

[Legislative Finance Division](#)

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