

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: Arizona

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Arizona could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$30,216 (163 percent of poverty, 51 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Arizona had 4,626 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of April 2011.
- **Parent copayments:** In 2011, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$18,530 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$65 per month, or 4 percent of its income, in copayments. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$27,795 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$152 per month, or 7 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Arizona's reimbursement rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were below the federally recommended level—the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates, which is the level designed to give families access to 75 percent of the providers in their community.<sup>2</sup>
  - Arizona's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) was \$515,<sup>3</sup> which was \$320 (38 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Arizona's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) was \$576,<sup>4</sup> which was \$398 (41 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Arizona paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) at the highest quality tier was 10 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) at the highest quality tier was still below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Arizona allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 60 days while searching for a job.<sup>5</sup> However, Arizona did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

Source: Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2011: Reduced Support for Families in Challenging Times* (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2011). These data reflect policies as of February 2011, unless otherwise indicated.

1 As of July 2011, the income limit was increased to \$30,600 (165 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2011 federal poverty level.

2 Reimbursement rates were set at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of 2000 market rates in 2006. On July 1, 2007, the state implemented a 5 percent increase in rates. On April 1, 2009, the state reversed this 5 percent increase and rates reverted to the level at which they had been set in 2006.

3 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.

4 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.

5 Each parent in a family receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to two 30-day periods or one 60-day period in each 12-month period.