

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: Connecticut

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Connecticut could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$42,690 (230 percent of poverty, 50 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Connecticut had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 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 \$62 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 \$139 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Connecticut'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.
  - Connecticut's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region was \$650,<sup>2</sup> which was \$429 (40 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Connecticut's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in the North Central Region was \$818,<sup>3</sup> which was \$459 (36 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Connecticut paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region at the highest quality tier was 5 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region 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, Connecticut allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job only until the end of the month following the month of a job loss.<sup>4</sup> Connecticut 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 In February 2011, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$64,035. As of July 2011, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$42,893 (50 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$64,340 (75 percent of state median income) to adjust for the 2011 state median income estimate.

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

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

4 Parents receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it until the end of the month following the month of a job loss if they were actively seeking another job and payment was needed to prevent the loss of a slot in a school-based or licensed child care program and the child continued to attend care.