

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: Delaware

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Delaware could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$36,624 (198 percent of poverty, 52 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Delaware 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 \$100 per month, or 7 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 \$220 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>1</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Delaware'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.
  - Delaware's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in New Castle County was \$478, which was \$304 (39 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Delaware's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in New Castle County was \$539, which was \$349 (39 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Delaware did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Delaware allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 3 months while searching for a job. However, Delaware 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.

<sup>1</sup> The state determines copayments based on the cost of care; these copayments were calculated assuming that the family was purchasing care at the state's maximum reimbursement rate for licensed, non-accredited center care for a four-year-old.