

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Georgia

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Georgia could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$28,160 (152 percent of poverty, 48 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Georgia froze intake—and began turning away families without adding their names to a waiting list—for child care assistance as of May 2011.¹
- **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 \$130 per month, or 8 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 \$191 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Georgia's reimbursement rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were below the federally recommended level—the 75th percentile of current market rates, which is the level designed to give families access to 75 percent of the providers in their community.
 - Georgia's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Zone 1 was \$494, which was \$221 (31 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Georgia's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Zone 1 was \$602, which was \$212 (26 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Georgia did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Georgia allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 8 weeks while searching for a job. However, Georgia did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.²

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 The state froze intake as of May 2011 for all families other than minor parents enrolled full time in school, grandparents over the age of 60 or receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) who are raising children under five, protective services cases, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families applicants and recipients, and children with special needs.

2 Parents receiving child care assistance who lose a job due to a company closing or layoffs may continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 8 weeks. After the 8-week time period, a parent's case may be suspended for up to 12 weeks. Under a separate program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that started in 2009 and ended in September 2010, parents could qualify or continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 12 weeks.