

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: Indiana

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Indiana could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$23,256 (126 percent of poverty, 39 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Indiana had 12,689 children on a 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 \$77 per month, or 5 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 \$208 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Indiana'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.
  - Indiana's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Marion County was \$693,<sup>3</sup> which was \$99 (13 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Indiana's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Marion County was \$814,<sup>4</sup> which was \$91 (10 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Indiana paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Marion County 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 Marion County 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, Indiana allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 13 weeks per year while searching for a job. However, Indiana 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 \$31,128. As of April 2011, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$23,532 (127 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$31,500 (170 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2011 federal poverty level.

2 Copayments vary depending on how long the family has been receiving child care assistance, with families paying a higher percentage of income the longer they receive assistance. These copayments assume it is the first year the family is receiving assistance.

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.