

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Louisiana

- **Income eligibility limit:** As of February 2011, a family of three in Louisiana could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$37,896 (205 percent of poverty, 69 percent of state median income). As of June 2011, the income limit for a family of three was reduced to \$35,868 (194 percent of poverty, 65 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Louisiana 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 \$152 per month, or 10 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.¹
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Louisiana'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.
 - Louisiana's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$379,² which was \$108 (22 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Louisiana's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$401,³ which was \$141 (26 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Louisiana paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.⁴
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was 20 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Louisiana did not allow parents to receive 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 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.

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 Bonuses for higher-quality care are paid quarterly.