



## MARYLAND STATE CHILD CARE FACT SHEET

# State Child Care Assistance Policies: Maryland

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Maryland could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$29,990 (162 percent of poverty, 35 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Maryland started a waiting list for child care assistance as of February 28, 2011. The list grew to 2,854 children shortly after it was implemented and has continued to increase.
- **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 \$200 per month, or 13 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 \$313 per month, or 13 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>1</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Maryland'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.
  - Maryland's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Region W<sup>2</sup> was \$532,<sup>3</sup> which was \$247 (32 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Maryland's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Region W was \$844,<sup>4</sup> which was \$240 (22 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Maryland paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Region W at the highest quality tier was 26 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Region W 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, Maryland allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 consecutive days while searching for a job. However, Maryland 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 The state determines copayments based on maximum state reimbursement rates in the region where the family lives. These copayments were calculated assuming the family lived in the region with the highest rates and had a four-year-old in center care.

2 Region W includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, and Prince George's Counties.

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.