

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Mississippi

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Mississippi could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$34,999 (189 percent of poverty, 74 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Mississippi had 9,652 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of February 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 \$80 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 \$155 per month, or 7 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Mississippi's reimbursement rates for most 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.³
 - Mississippi's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$312,⁴ which was \$78 (20 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Mississippi's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$339,⁵ which was \$94 (22 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Mississippi paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was 9 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, Mississippi allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 60 days from the last date of employment.

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 Families with incomes at or below 50 percent of state median income are not placed on the waiting list.

2 For children in foster care or protective services and children receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits, the copayment is \$10 per month.

3 Reimbursement rates for licensed centers are at the 51st percentile of market rates for infants, 49th percentile for toddlers, 56th percentile for preschoolers, 62nd percentile for school-age care during the summer, and 75th percentile for special needs care. Reimbursement rates for family child care are at the 36th percentile for infants, 65th percentile for toddlers, 64th percentile for preschoolers, 75th percentile for school-age care during the summer, and 42nd percentile for special needs care.

4 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.

5 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.