

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Missouri

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Missouri could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$23,520 (127 percent of poverty, 40 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Missouri 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 \$110 per month, or 7 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Missouri'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.
 - Missouri's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the St. Louis area was \$348,² which was \$492 (59 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Missouri's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in the St. Louis area was \$596,³ which was \$528 (47 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Missouri paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the St. Louis area 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 in the St. Louis area at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Missouri allowed parents to qualify for child care assistance for up to 8 weeks while searching for a job.⁴ The state also allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 4 weeks 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 2011, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$25,740.

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 As of May 1, 2010, parents applying for child care assistance could receive assistance while searching for a job for up to 8 weeks. Missouri planned to stop allowing parents (other than those receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job once American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding was no longer available or as of September 30, 2011, whichever occurred first.