

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Nebraska

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Nebraska could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$21,972 (119 percent of poverty, 36 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Nebraska 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 \$61 per month, or 4 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Nebraska'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.
 - Nebraska's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties was \$671,² which was \$87 (11 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Nebraska's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in urban counties was \$812,³ which was \$54 (6 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Nebraska paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties 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 urban counties at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Nebraska allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 2 calendar months, with a possible extension.

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 For families transitioning from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the income limit was \$33,876 in February 2011. As of July 2011, the income limit was increased to \$34,296 (185 percent of poverty) for families transitioning from TANF and to \$22,248 (120 percent of poverty) for all other families to adjust for the 2011 federal poverty level.

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.