

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: North Dakota

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in North Dakota could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$29,556 (160 percent of poverty, 48 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** North Dakota 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 \$258 per month, or 17 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 \$344 per month, or 15 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, North Dakota'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.
  - North Dakota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$430, which was \$76 (15 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - North Dakota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$480, which was \$85 (15 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, North Dakota did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, North Dakota allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 8 weeks while searching for a job.<sup>3</sup>

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 As of October 2011, the income limit was expected to increase to \$30,576 (45 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

2 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.

3 Parents could receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 8 weeks in a calendar year for 20 hours a week.