

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Ohio

- **Income eligibility limit:** In February 2011, a family of three in Ohio could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$27,468 (148 percent of poverty, 44 percent of state median income). As of July 2011, the income limit for a family of three to qualify for assistance was reduced to \$23,172 (125 percent of poverty, 37 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Ohio 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 \$112 per month, or 7 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 \$207 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Ohio'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. In addition, Ohio reduced reimbursement rates across the board for all child care providers as of July 31, 2011.²
 - Ohio's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was \$603 in February 2011,³ which was \$163 (21 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Ohio's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was \$746 in February 2011,⁴ which was \$203 (21 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Ohio paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) at the highest quality tier was 15 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Ohio allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job. However, Ohio did not allow parent to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.⁵

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 February 2011, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$36,620. After the initial eligibility limit was lowered in July 2011, families already receiving assistance could still continue to receive it up to the higher exit eligibility limit, which was increased to \$37,080 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2011 federal poverty level.

2 The state reduced its reimbursement rates from the 35th percentile to the 26th percentile of 2008 market rates as of July 31, 2011.

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.

5 Parents receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 30 days if they were scheduled to return to work, school, or training within that timeframe.