

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: Rhode Island

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Rhode Island could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$32,958 (178 percent of poverty, 46 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Rhode Island 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 \$31 per month, or 2 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 \$185 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Rhode Island'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.
  - Rhode Island's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$680, which was \$182 (21 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Rhode Island's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$814, which was \$175 (18 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Rhode Island did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Rhode Island allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 21 days while searching for a job.<sup>2</sup> However, Rhode Island did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance 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 As of April 2011, the income limit was increased to \$33,354 (180 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2011 federal poverty level.

2 Parents receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it for up to 21 consecutive days from the beginning of a period of temporary unemployment resulting from a job loss or transition between jobs.