

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: South Dakota

- **Income eligibility limit:** In February 2011, a family of three in South Dakota could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$38,150 (206 percent of poverty, 66 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup> As of July 2011, the income limit for a family of three was reduced to \$33,779 (182 percent of poverty, 62 percent of state median income).<sup>2</sup>
- **Waiting list:** South 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 had no copayment. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$27,795 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$334 per month, or 14 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>3</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, South Dakota's reimbursement rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were at 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.
  - South Dakota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Minnehaha County/Sioux Falls was \$614, which was equal to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - South Dakota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Minnehaha County/Sioux Falls was \$722, which was equal to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, South Dakota did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, South Dakota allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job. However, South Dakota did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.<sup>4</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 This income limit takes into account that the state disregards 4 percent of earned income in determining eligibility. The stated income limit, in policy, was \$36,624 in February 2011. As of March 2011, the stated income limit was increased to \$37,068 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2011 federal poverty level.

2 The stated income limit was \$32,428 (175 percent of poverty).

3 These copayments were calculated based on adjusted income, taking into account the earned income disregard.

4 Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 30 days from the last date of employment. From June 2009 until September 30, 2010, the state used American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to allow parents to qualify or continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 2 months.