

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: Utah

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Utah could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$35,244 (190 percent of poverty, 60 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Utah 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 \$1 per month, or less than 1 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 \$172 per month, or 7 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Utah'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.
  - Utah's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$450, which was \$66 (13 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Utah's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$564, which was \$146 (21 percent) below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Utah did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Utah allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 150 hours 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 This income limit takes into account a standard deduction of \$100 per month (\$1,200 a year) for each working parent, assuming there is one working parent in the family, and a standard deduction of \$100 per month (\$1,200 a year) for all families to help cover any medical expenses. The stated income limit, in policy, was \$32,844 in February 2011. Also note that in February 2011, families already receiving assistance could remain eligible up to a stated exit eligibility limit of \$41,052. As of October 2011, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was expected to increase to \$33,079 (56 percent of state median income), and the stated exit eligibility limit was expected to increase to \$41,349 (70 percent of state median income) to adjust for the 2012 state median income estimate. The stated income limit to qualify for special needs care was \$49,848 in February 2011.

2 These copayment amounts were calculated based on adjusted income, taking into account the income deductions. Also note that Utah, which had lowered its copayments by 20 percent using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, planned to revert to its previous copayment levels as of October 2011.

3 Parents could receive child care assistance for up to 150 hours while searching for a job under the Kids-In-Care Program.