

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Virginia

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, Virginia had four different regional income limits for a family of three to qualify for child care assistance, ranging from \$27,468 per year (148 percent of poverty, 39 percent of state median income) to \$45,780 per year (247 percent of poverty, 64 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Virginia had 11,018 children on a 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 \$154 per month, or 10 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 \$231 per month, or 10 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Virginia'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.
 - Virginia's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Fairfax County was \$844, which was \$368 (30 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Virginia's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Fairfax County was \$1,212, which was \$204 (14 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Virginia did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Virginia did not allow parents to receive 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 The state's four separate regional income limits were \$27,468, \$29,304, \$33,876, and \$45,780. As of October 2011, the income limits were expected to increase to \$27,804 (150 percent of poverty), \$29,652 (160 percent of poverty), \$34,284 (185 percent of poverty), and \$46,332 (250 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2011 federal poverty level.