

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Washington

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2011, a family of three in Washington could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$32,424 (175 percent of poverty, 47 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Washington had 3,455 families on a waiting list for child care assistance as of May 2011.¹
- **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 \$50 per month, or 3 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 \$146 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Washington's reimbursement rates for most 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.²
 - Washington's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in King County (Region 4) was \$673, which was \$380 (36 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Washington's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in King County (Region 4) was \$802, which was \$452 (36 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2011, Washington did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2011, Washington allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 56 days while searching for a job.³ However, Washington 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 The state implemented the waiting list on March 1, 2011.

2 Reimbursement rates for center care range from the 10th percentile of market rates for preschoolers in Region 4 to the 73rd percentile for school-age care in Region 4. Rates for family child care range from the 24th percentile for toddlers in Region 5 to the 84th percentile for school-age care in Region 1.

3 Parents receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it while searching for a job for a period of up to 28 days twice per year or a period of up to 56 days once per year.