



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: IOWA

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2015, a family of three in Iowa could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$28,716 (143 percent of poverty, 44 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Iowa had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2015.
- **Parent copayments:** In 2015, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$20,090 a year) receiving child care assistance in Iowa paid \$9 per month, or 1 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Iowa'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.
 - Iowa's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$595, which was \$175 (23 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Iowa's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$738, which was \$164 (18 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Iowa did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2015, Iowa allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job.³

Source: Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Building Blocks: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2015 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2015). These data reflect policies as of February 2015, unless otherwise indicated.

1 For special needs care, the income limit was \$39,600 in February 2015. As of July 2015, the income limit for standard care was increased to \$29,136 (145 percent of poverty), and the income limit for special needs care was increased to \$40,188 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for 2015 federal poverty level.

2 A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$30,135 a year) would be eligible for assistance if the family were using special needs care. For this family, the copayment would have been \$174 per month in 2015. A family with an income at 100 percent of poverty that is using special needs care would have the same copayment as a family using standard care.

3 Parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 30 consecutive days, once within a 12-month period.

