



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: **MARYLAND**

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2015, a family of three in Maryland could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$29,990 (149 percent of poverty, 34 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Maryland had 3,196 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of July 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 Maryland paid \$244 per month, or 15 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>1</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Maryland'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.<sup>2</sup>
  - Maryland's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Region W was \$546,<sup>3</sup> which was \$269 (33 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.<sup>4</sup>
  - Maryland's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Region W was \$865,<sup>5</sup> which was \$324 (27 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Maryland paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Region W at the highest quality tier was 26 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Region W at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2015, Maryland allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 consecutive days while searching for a job. However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

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 The state determines copayments based on maximum state reimbursement rates in the region where the family lives. These copayments were calculated assuming the family lived in the region with the highest rates and had a four-year-old in center care.
- 2 The reimbursement rates shown here reflect that the states increased rates by 2.5 percent as of January 2015.
- 3 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 4 Region W includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, and Prince George's Counties.
- 4 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.

