



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: OHIO

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2015, a family of three in Ohio could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$24,732 (123 percent of poverty, 39 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Ohio 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 Ohio paid \$119 per month, or 7 percent of its income, in copayments. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$30,135 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$216 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Ohio'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.
  - Ohio's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was \$570,<sup>2</sup> which was \$340 (37 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Ohio's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was \$713,<sup>3</sup> which was \$542 (43 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Ohio paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) at the highest quality tier was 25 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2015, Ohio allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 91 days while searching for a job.<sup>4</sup> 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 In February 2015, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$39,576. As of March 2015, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$25,116 (125 percent of poverty) and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$40,176 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2015 federal poverty level. As of September 2015, income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$26,124 (130 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$60,264 (300 percent of poverty).
- 2 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 3 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 4 As of September 2014, parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it for up to 91 days or until the end of the eligibility period (whichever comes first) while searching for a job, even if they are not scheduled to return to work, school, or training; under the previous policy, parents receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it for up to 30 days if they were scheduled to return to work, school, or training within that timeframe.

