



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

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

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2015, a family of three in Utah could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$34,404 (171 percent of poverty, 60 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Utah 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 Utah paid \$16 per month, or 1 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 \$213 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Utah'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.<sup>3</sup>
  - Utah's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$505, which was \$32 (6 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Utah's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$650, which was \$60 (8 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Utah did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2015, Utah allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 2 months 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 This income limit takes into account a standard deduction of \$100 per month (\$1,200 a year) for each working parent, assuming there is one working parent in the family, and a standard deduction of \$100 per month (\$1,200 a year) for all families to help cover any medical expenses. The stated income limit, in policy, was \$32,004 in February 2015. Also note that in February 2015, families already receiving assistance could remain eligible up to a stated income limit of \$39,994. As of October 2015, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was expected to increase to \$33,276 (56 percent of state median income), and the stated exit eligibility limit was expected to increase to \$41,595 (70 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate. The stated income limit to qualify for special needs care was \$48,576 in February 2015.
- 2 These copayment amounts were calculated based on adjusted income, taking into account the income deductions.
- 3 The reimbursement rates shown here reflect that the state increased rates in May 2014 and again in July 2014.
- 4 Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 2 months once in a 12-month period, if they were employed at least 32 hours per week at the time of the job loss. Prior to 2015, parents could continue to receive assistance through the primary child care assistance program only until the end of the month of a job loss. Previously, parents could also qualify or continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 150 hours in a 6-month period under the Kids-In-Care Program; this program was ended in June 2014 but was reinstated as of September 2015 to serve families not already receiving child care assistance.

