State Child Care Assistance Policies: Maine
December 2013

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Maine could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $47,725 (244 percent of poverty, 80 percent of state median income).\(^1\)

- **Waiting list:** Maine had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2013.

- **Parent copayments:** In 2013, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty ($19,530 a year) receiving child care assistance in Maine paid $95 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty ($29,295 a year) receiving child care assistance paid $195 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.

- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Maine'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.\(^2\)
  - Maine’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cumberland County was $810,\(^3\) which was $57 (7 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Maine’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Cumberland County was $1,018,\(^4\) which was $31 (3 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Maine paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cumberland County at the highest quality tier was 10 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cumberland County at the highest quality tier was above the 75th percentile of current market rates.

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Maine allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 2 months.\(^5\) However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

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**Source:** Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Pivot Point: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2013 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2013). These data reflect policies as of February 2013, unless otherwise indicated.

1 As of April 2013, the income limit was increased to $48,828 (250 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2013 federal poverty level.
2 As of October 2013, the state planned to update its reimbursement rates from the 50th percentile of 2011 market rates to the 50th percentile of 2013 market rates.
3 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
4 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
5 Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 2 months within a 6-month period, for up to 20 hours per week.