State Child Care Assistance Policies: Rhode Island

December 2013

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Rhode Island could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $34,362 (176 percent of poverty, 46 percent of state median income).¹

- **Waiting list:** Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island paid $33 per month, or 2 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, Rhode Island'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.

  - Rhode Island’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was $680, which was $147 (18 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

  - Rhode Island's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was $814, which was $171 (17 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Rhode Island did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Rhode Island allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 21 days while searching for a job.² However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

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¹ As of April 2013, the income limit was increased to $35,154 (180 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2013 federal poverty level. As of October 2013, the state planned to begin a 12-month pilot during which time families already receiving assistance will be able to continue doing so until their income reaches $43,943 (225 percent of poverty).

² Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it for up to 21 consecutive days from the beginning of a period of temporary unemployment resulting from a job loss or transition between jobs.