State Child Care Assistance Policies: Utah

December 2013

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Utah could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $34,416 (176 percent of poverty, 60 percent of state median income).¹

- **Waiting list:** Utah 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 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 ($29,295 a year) receiving child care assistance paid $212 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.²

- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Utah’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.
  
  - Utah’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was $480, which was $105 (18 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 $620, which was $212 (25 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

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

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Utah allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 150 hours while searching for a job.³


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 $32,016 in February 2013. Also note that in February 2013, families already receiving assistance could remain eligible up to a stated income limit of $40,020. As of October 2013, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was expected to change to $31,992 (56 percent of state median income), and the stated exit eligibility limit was expected to change to $39,996 (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 $48,600 in February 2013.

² These copayment amounts were calculated based on adjusted income, taking into account the income deductions.

³ Parents can 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.