State Child Care Assistance Policies: Washington

December 2013

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Washington could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $38,184 (196 percent of poverty, 56 percent of state median income).  

- **Waiting list:** Washington 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 Washington paid $65 per month, or 4 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 $192 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.

- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Washington’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.

  - Washington’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in King County (Region 4) was $673 as of February 2013, which was $444 (40 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

  - Washington’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in King County (Region 4) was $802 as of February 2013, which was $556 (41 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

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

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Washington allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 56 days while searching for a job. However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.


1 As of September 2013, the income limit was increased to $39,072 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for 2013 federal poverty level.

2 As of September 2013, the state increased reimbursement rates by 2 percent.

3 As of September 2013, the state implemented a new tiered reimbursement system for higher-quality providers; rates for providers at level two or higher of state’s five-level quality rating and improvement system are 2 percent above the base rate.

4 Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for a period of up to 28 days twice per year or a period of up to 56 days once per year.