

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Alaska

December 2014

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2014, a family of three in Alaska could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$54,288 (274 percent of poverty, 74 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Alaska had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2014.
- **Parent copayments:** In 2014, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$19,790 a year) receiving child care assistance in Alaska paid \$49 per month, or 3 percent of its income, in copayments. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$29,685 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$124 per month, or 5 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2014, Alaska'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.
 - Alaska's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Anchorage was \$650, which was \$175 (21 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Alaska's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Anchorage was \$850, which was \$95 (10 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2014, Alaska did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2014, Alaska allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 80 hours per year while searching for a job.²

Source: Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Turning the Corner: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2014 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2014). These data reflect policies as of February 2014, unless otherwise indicated.

¹ The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) payment, which the majority of families in the state receive, is not counted when determining eligibility.

² The state is considering extending the amount of time parents could receive child care assistance while searching for a job as of the spring of 2015; parents would be allowed to qualify for and begin receiving assistance for part-day child care (up to 5 hours per day) for up to two part-time months (17 days per month) while searching for a job, and parents would be allowed to continue to receive child care assistance for full-time child care until the end of the month following the month of a job loss.