



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *MONTANA*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2015, a family of three in Montana could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$29,688 (148 percent of poverty, 51 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Montana had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2015.
- **Parent copayments:** In 2015, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$20,090 a year) receiving child care assistance in Montana paid \$67 per month, or 4 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Montana'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—for some types of care.²
 - Montana's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the Billings region was \$649,³ which was approximately equal to the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Montana's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in the Billings region was \$743,⁴ which was \$29 (4 percent) above the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2015, Montana paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the Billings region at the highest quality tier was 20 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the Billings region at the highest quality tier was above the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2015, Montana allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 90 days while searching for a job.⁵ However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

Source: Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Building Blocks: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2015 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2015). These data reflect policies as of February 2015, unless otherwise indicated.



- 1 As of June 2015, the income limit was increased to \$30,132 (150 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2015 federal poverty level.
- 2 The reimbursement rates shown here reflect that the state increased rates by 2 percent as of July 2014.
- 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 The state increased the amount of time parents could receive child care assistance while searching for a job from 30 days to 90 days as of August 2014.

