STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: SOUTH DAKOTA

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2015, a family of three in South Dakota could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $36,075 (180 percent of poverty, 58 percent of state median income).¹

- **Waiting list:** South Dakota 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 South Dakota had no copayment. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty ($30,135 a year) receiving child care assistance paid $362 per month, or 14 percent of its income, in copayments.²

- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2015, South Dakota’s reimbursement rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were at 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.³
  - South Dakota’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Minnehaha County (Sioux Falls) was $692, which was equal to the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - South Dakota’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Minnehaha County (Sioux Falls) was $770, which was equal to the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2015, South Dakota did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2015, South Dakota allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job.⁴ However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

1 This income limit takes into account that the state disregards 4 percent of earned income in determining eligibility. The stated income limit, in policy, was $34,632 in February 2015. As of March 2015, the stated income limit was increased to $35,160 (175 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2015 federal poverty level.

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

3 The reimbursement rates shown here reflect that the state increased rates (from the 75th percentile of 2011 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2013 market rates) as of June 2014.

4 Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 30 days from the last date of employment.