



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: ALASKA

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Alaska could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$54,288 (269 percent of poverty, 72 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Alaska had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2016.
- **Parent copayments:** In 2016, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$20,160 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 (\$30,240 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$124 per month, or 5 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, 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 \$230 (26 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 \$170 (17 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Alaska did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Alaska allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 80 hours per year while searching for a job.

Source: Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Red Light Green Light: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2016 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2016). These data reflect policies as of February 2016, 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 Families applying for or receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and children in foster care are exempt from copayments.

