



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: **ARIZONA**

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Arizona could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$33,168 (165 percent of poverty, 61 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Arizona had 4,865 children on a 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 Arizona paid \$65 per month, or 4 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 \$152 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Arizona'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.
 - Arizona's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) was \$515,³ which was \$368 (42 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Arizona's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) was \$576,⁴ which was \$429 (43 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Arizona paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) at the highest quality tier was 10 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Arizona allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 60 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, 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 As of September 2016, the income limit was increased to \$33,264 (165 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2016 federal poverty level.
- 2 Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), families receiving protective services, and children in foster care are exempt from copayments. As of September 2016, the state reduced families' copayments.
- 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 In February 2016, parents receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to two 30-day periods or one 60-day period, beginning after the last day worked, in each 12-month period. The state extended the amount of time parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job to 3 months as of September 2016.

