

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: CONNECTICUT

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Connecticut could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$44,601 (221 percent of poverty, 50 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Connecticut had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2016. As of August 2016, the state began a waiting list.
- **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 Connecticut paid \$67 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 \$151 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Connecticut'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.
 - Connecticut's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region was \$693,³ which was \$485 (41 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Connecticut's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in the North Central Region was \$870,⁴ which was \$537 (38 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Connecticut paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region at the highest quality tier was 5 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Connecticut allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of the month following the month of a job loss.⁵ 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 Between July 1, 2016 and July 31, 2016, the income limit to qualify for assistance was temporarily reduced to \$26,761 (30 percent of state median income). During this time, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$44,601 (50 percent of state median income), the income limit in effect before and after the temporary reduction.
- 2 Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and in an approved training or education activity (but not employed) and foster children are exempt from 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 until the end of the month following the month of a job loss, if the parent timely reported the loss and was actively seeking a new job. 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 April 2016.

