



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: **DELAWARE**

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Delaware could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$40,188 (199 percent of poverty, 56 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Delaware 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 Delaware paid \$120 per month, or 7 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 \$264 per month, or 10 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Delaware'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.
 - Delaware's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in New Castle County was \$805,³ which was \$93 (10 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Delaware's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in New Castle County was \$874,⁴ which was \$150 (15 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Delaware paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in New Castle County at the highest quality tier was 54 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in New Castle County at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Delaware allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 90 days while searching for a job. 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 October 2016, the income limit was increased to \$40,320 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2016 federal poverty level.
- 2 The state determines copayments based on the cost of care; these copayments were calculated assuming that the family was purchasing care at the state's maximum base reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old. Also note that families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), grandparents, and foster parents are exempt from copayments.
- 3 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the most common rate level (the level representing the greatest number of providers).
- 4 This is the most common rate level.

