



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *MINNESOTA*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Minnesota could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$36,365 (180 percent of poverty, 47 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Minnesota had 7,200 families 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 Minnesota paid \$48 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 \$82 per month, or 3 percent of its income, in copayments.
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Minnesota'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.
 - Minnesota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Hennepin County was \$870,² which was \$286 (25 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Minnesota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Hennepin County was \$1,160,³ which was \$381 (25 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Minnesota paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Hennepin County at the highest quality tier was 20 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Hennepin 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, Minnesota allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 240 hours while searching for a job.⁴

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 In February 2016, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$51,840. As of October 2016, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$37,264 (47 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$53,121 (67 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.
- 2 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 3 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 4 Parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 240 hours per calendar year.

