



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *MISSOURI*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Missouri could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$27,720 (138 percent of poverty, 45 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Missouri 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 Missouri paid \$108 per month, or 6 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 \$201 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Missouri'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.³
 - Missouri's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in St. Louis County was \$369,⁴ which was \$397 (52 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Missouri's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in St. Louis County was \$632,⁵ which was \$732 (54 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Missouri paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in St. Louis 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 St. Louis 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, Missouri allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job.⁶ 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 In February 2016, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$43,188. As of April 2016, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$27,816 (138 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$43,344 (215 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2016 federal poverty level.
- 2 Children receiving protective services and children with special needs are exempt from copayments.
- 3 This analysis reflects rates in effect as of February 2016. The state increased rates by 10 percent as of July 2016.
- 4 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 5 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 6 In February 2016, parents receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it for up to 30 days after losing a job, twice per calendar year. The state extended the amount of time parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job to 90 days as of July 2016.

