



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: **NEBRASKA**

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Nebraska could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$26,112 (130 percent of poverty, 40 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Nebraska 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 Nebraska paid \$63 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 \$190 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Nebraska'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.
 - Nebraska's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties³ was \$779,⁴ which was \$22 (3 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Nebraska's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in urban counties was \$927,⁵ which was \$26 (3 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Nebraska paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties at the highest quality tier was 31 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties at the highest quality tier was above the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Nebraska allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 2 months while searching for a job.⁶

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 \$37,164. In addition, the state disregards 10 percent of a family's income at redetermination if the family has been continuously eligible for assistance for 12 months. As of July 2016, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$26,208 (130 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$37,296 (185 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2016 federal poverty level. Also note that for families transitioning from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the income limit was \$37,164 in February 2016.
- 2 Foster children and children who have subsidized adoption or guardianship agreements are exempt from copayments. As of July 2016, the state reduced families' copayments.
- 3 The urban counties include Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties.
- 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 Parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 2 consecutive calendar months following each instance of the loss of employment. Families with school-age children generally cannot receive child care assistance while a parent searches for a job.

