



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: NEW HAMPSHIRE

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in New Hampshire could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$50,225 (249 percent of poverty, 61 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire paid \$126 per month, or 8 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 \$315 per month, or 13 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, New Hampshire'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.
 - New Hampshire's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$779,³ which was \$118 (13 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - New Hampshire's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$931,⁴ which was \$100 (10 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, New Hampshire paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was 10 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, New Hampshire allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to 40 days while searching for a job.⁵

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 July 2016, the income limit was increased to \$50,400 (250 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2016 federal poverty level.
- 2 Foster children may be exempted from copayments on a case-by-case basis.
- 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 Parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 40 paid days in a rolling 6-month period, for up to 30 hours per week. Parents must verify their job search with either receipt of unemployment compensation, a registration page from the New Hampshire Job Match System, or participation in the New Hampshire Employment Program. The state planned to extend the amount of time parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job to 92 calendar days and to eliminate the requirement to verify the job search as of May 2017.

