



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: OHIO

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Ohio could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$26,124 (130 percent of poverty, 40 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Ohio 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 Ohio paid \$123 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 \$227 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Ohio'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.
 - Ohio's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was \$570,³ which was \$340 (37 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Ohio's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was \$713,⁴ which was \$542 (43 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Ohio paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.⁵
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) at the highest quality tier was 25 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Ohio allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 91 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 2016, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$60,264 (300 percent of the 2015 federal poverty level).
- 2 Homeless families and families receiving protective child care services are exempt from copayments.
- 3 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
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- 5 This analysis is based on rates in effect as of February 2016. The state increased rates for providers with ratings of two stars or higher in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) as of June 2016, and implemented additional rate increases for all star-rated providers as of September 2016.
- 6 Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 91 days or until the end of the eligibility period, whichever comes first.

