



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: OREGON

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Oregon could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$37,188 (184 percent of poverty, 63 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Oregon had 5,675 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of July 2016. As of August 2016, the state deactivated the waiting list, serving families who had been on the waiting list and serving new applicants without placing them on the waiting list.
- **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 Oregon paid \$176 per month, or 10 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 \$460 per month, or 18 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Oregon's reimbursement rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were equal to 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.
  - Oregon's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Portland (Multnomah County) was \$965, which was equal to the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Oregon's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Portland (Multnomah County) was \$1,255, which was equal to the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In February 2016, Oregon did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.<sup>3</sup>
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Oregon allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for 3 months while searching for a job. 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 \$52,344. As of March 2016, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$37,296 (185 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was changed to \$50,400 (250 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2016 federal poverty level. (The exit eligibility limit is set at 85 percent of state median income or 250 percent of poverty, whichever is higher.)

2 Families are exempt from copayments while searching for a job.

3 The state began paying higher reimbursements for providers with ratings of three stars or higher in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) as of April 2016.

