



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *PENNSYLVANIA*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Pennsylvania could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$40,180 (199 percent of poverty, 57 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Pennsylvania had 6,473 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of December 2015.
- **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 Pennsylvania paid \$134 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 \$229 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Pennsylvania'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.
 - Pennsylvania's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Philadelphia was \$707,³ which was \$143 (17 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Pennsylvania's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Philadelphia was \$902,⁴ which was \$121 (12 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Pennsylvania paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Philadelphia at the highest quality tier was 23 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Philadelphia at the highest quality tier was above the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Pennsylvania allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 92 consecutive calendar days 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 \$47,212. As of May 2016, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$40,320 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$47,376 (235 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2016 federal poverty level.
- 2 Families receiving child care funded under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and not working 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.
- 4 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.

