



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *SOUTH DAKOTA*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in South Dakota could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$36,625 (182 percent of poverty, 59 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** South Dakota 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 South Dakota had no copayment. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$30,240 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$363 per month, or 14 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In February 2016, South Dakota'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—for some categories of care, although rates for some categories were above the recommended level.³
 - South Dakota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Minnehaha County (Sioux Falls) was \$692, which was \$10 (1 percent) above the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - South Dakota's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Minnehaha County (Sioux Falls) was \$770, which was \$10 (1 percent) above the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, South Dakota did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, South Dakota allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job.⁴ 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 This income limit takes into account that the state disregards 4 percent of earned income in determining eligibility. The stated income limit, in policy, was \$35,160 in February 2016. As of March 2016, the stated income limit was increased to \$35,280 (175 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2016 federal poverty level.
- 2 These copayment amounts were calculated based on adjusted income, taking into account the earned income disregard discussed above. Also note that foster children and families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are exempt from copayments.
- 3 While some of the state's reimbursement rates in February 2016—including the rates for Minnehaha County shown here—were at or above the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates, some rates for other age groups, counties, and types of care were below the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates. The state increased rates to the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates for all categories of care as of June 2016.
- 4 In February 2016, parents receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 30 days from the last date of employment. The state extended the amount of time parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job to 3 months as of September 2016.

