



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: **UTAH**

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Utah could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$35,676 (177 percent of poverty, 60 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Utah 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 Utah paid \$17 per month, or 1 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 \$221 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Utah's reimbursement rates for most 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.
 - Utah's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$568, which was \$30 (5 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Utah's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$758, which was \$22 (3 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Utah did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Utah allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 2 months while searching for a job.³ Parents can also qualify for or continue to receive child care assistance for up to 150 hours in a 6-month period while searching for a job under the state's separate Kids-In-Care program.

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 a standard deduction of \$100 per month (\$1,200 a year) for each working parent, assuming there is one working parent in the family, and a standard deduction of \$100 per month (\$1,200 a year) for all families to help cover any medical expenses. The stated income limit, in policy, was \$33,276 (56 percent of state median income) in 2016. Also note that in 2016, families already receiving assistance could remain eligible up to a stated income limit of \$41,592 (70 percent of state median income). The stated income limit to qualify for special needs care was \$50,508 (85 percent of state median income) in 2016.
- 2 These copayment amounts were calculated based on adjusted income, taking into account the income deductions discussed above. Also note that families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are exempt from copayments, and families transitioning from TANF are exempt from copayments for up to six months. As of April 2016, the state eliminated copayments for families with incomes up to 100 percent of poverty. As of October 2016, the state reduced copayments for families at all income levels.
- 3 In February 2016, parents receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 2 months once in a 12-month period, if they were employed at least 32 hours per week at the time of the job loss. To receive the first month of child care assistance while searching for a job, the parent had to report the change in employment status within 10 days and request child care assistance for job search; to receive the second month of child care assistance while searching for a job, the parent had to verify the job termination. 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.

