



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *VERMONT*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in Vermont could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$39,576 (196 percent of poverty, 57 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Vermont 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 Vermont paid \$6 per month, or less than 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 \$260 per month, or 10 percent of its income, in copayments.¹
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Vermont'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.
 - Vermont's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$809,² which was \$152 (16 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Vermont's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$856,³ which was \$183 (18 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Vermont paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was 40 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Vermont allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance for up to one month while searching for a job.⁴

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 The state determines copayments based on the cost of care; these copayments were calculated assuming that the family was purchasing care at the state's maximum base reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old. Also note that children who are in protective custody may be exempted from copayments if requested by their social worker.
- 2 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the most common rate level (the level representing the greatest number of providers).
- 3 This is the most common rate level.
- 4 In February 2016, parents could request and be approved to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for an additional 2 months (beyond the initial month). Parents had to complete a log documenting their work search activities. The state extended the amount of time parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job to 3 months, and eliminated the requirement for them to request the additional months of child care assistance while searching for a job, as of September 2016.

