



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: **VIRGINIA**

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, Virginia had four different regional income limits for a family of three to qualify for child care assistance, ranging from \$30,144 per year (150 percent of poverty, 39 percent of state median income) to \$50,232 per year (249 percent of poverty, 65 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Virginia had 17,516 children on a 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 Virginia paid \$100 per month, or 6 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 \$201 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Virginia'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.²
 - Virginia's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Fairfax County was \$1,147, which was \$145 (11 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Virginia's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Fairfax County was \$1,364, which was \$117 (8 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, Virginia did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2016, Virginia did not allow parents to receive child care assistance while searching for a job.³

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 has different income limits for different regions of the state. In February 2016, the state's four separate regional income limits were: \$30,144, \$32,148, \$37,176, and \$50,232. As of October 2016, the income limits were increased to \$30,240 (150 percent of poverty), \$32,256 (160 percent of poverty), \$37,296 (185 percent of poverty), and \$50,400 (250 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2016 federal poverty level.

2 Families eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and families enrolled in Head Start, or participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training program, whose income is at or below poverty are exempt from copayments.

3 Parents cannot receive child care assistance while searching for a job, but families must be provided at least 10 days' advance notice before their case is closed.

