



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *WEST VIRGINIA*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2016, a family of three in West Virginia could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$29,688 (147 percent of poverty, 52 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** West Virginia 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 West Virginia paid \$76 per month, or 5 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 \$119 per month, or 5 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Reimbursement rates:** In February 2016, West Virginia'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.³
 - West Virginia's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$498,⁴ which was \$108 (18 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - West Virginia's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$606,⁵ which was \$87 (13 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2016, West Virginia 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 17 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, West Virginia allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job.⁶ 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 2016, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$36,612 (185 percent of the 2014 federal poverty level).
- 2 Foster families are exempt from copayments.
- 3 In February 2016, the percentile of the market rate for reimbursement rates varied by the type of care, age of the child, and quality tier. The state increased base rates for all types of care and age groups to the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates as of March 2016.
- 4 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 5 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 6 The state extended the amount of time parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job to 90 days, and began allowing parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job, as of September 2016.

