

## CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

### STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *CONNECTICUT*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2017, a family of three in Connecticut could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$45,609 (223 percent of poverty, 50 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Connecticut had 3,540 families on a waiting list for child care assistance as of May 2017.<sup>2</sup>
- **Parent copayments:** In 2017, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$20,420 a year) receiving child care assistance in Connecticut paid \$68 per month, or 4 percent of its income, in copayments. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$30,630 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$153 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>3</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2017, Connecticut's payment 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.
  - Connecticut's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region was \$693,<sup>4</sup> which was \$485 (41 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Connecticut's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in the North Central Region was \$870,<sup>5</sup> which was \$537 (38 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2017, Connecticut had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region at the highest quality tier was 5 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2017, Connecticut allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job. However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.

Source: Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, *Persistent Gaps: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2017* (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2017). These data reflect policies as of February 2017, unless otherwise indicated.

- 1 As of October 2017, the income limit was increased to \$46,263 (50 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.
- 2 Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are served without being placed on the waiting list; all other families applying for child care assistance were being placed on the waiting list in February 2017.
- 3 Families receiving TANF and with parents participating in an approved training or education activity (but not employed) and foster children are exempt from copayments.
- 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.

