

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *KANSAS*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2017, a family of three in Kansas could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$37,296 (183 percent of poverty, 57 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Kansas had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2017.
- **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 Kansas paid \$58 per month, or 3 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 \$207 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2017, Kansas'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.
 - Kansas's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Sedgwick was \$526, which was \$94 (15 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Kansas's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Sedgwick was \$694, which was \$150 (18 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2017, Kansas did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2017, Kansas allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job.³ The state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.⁴

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 In February 2017, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional three months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed \$54,060. As of May 2017, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$37,788 (185 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2017 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$55,524 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.
- 2 Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), families in the first two months following the loss of TANF eligibility, parents participating in the Food Assistance Education and Training work program, families receiving child care for social service reasons, and families participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 70 percent of the 2016 federal poverty level (\$14,112 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2017.
- 3 Parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.
- 4 Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and searching for a job is part of their work program plan.

