

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *NEW HAMPSHIRE*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2017, a family of three in New Hampshire could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$50,400 (247 percent of poverty, 60 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire paid \$128 per month, or 7 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 \$319 per month, or 12 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2017, New Hampshire'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.<sup>3</sup>
  - New Hampshire's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$779,<sup>4</sup> which was \$152 (16 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - New Hampshire's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$931,<sup>5</sup> which was \$217 (19 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2017, New Hampshire had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was 10 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The payment 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 February 2017, New Hampshire allowed parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job, and allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while searching for a job, for up to 40 days.<sup>6</sup>

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 July 2017, the income limit to qualify for assistance was reduced to \$44,924 (220 percent of poverty); families already receiving assistance can continue doing so until their income reaches to \$51,050 (250 percent of poverty).
- 2 Foster children may be exempted from copayments on a case-by-case basis. As of July 2017, homeless families may be exempted from copayments for up to 30 calendar days to allow time for them to submit information required for eligibility determination.
- 3 This analysis is based on payment rates in effect as of February 2017. The state increased base payment rates from the 50th percentile of 2014 market rates to the 50th percentile of 2016 market rates as of July 2017.
- 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 In February 2017, parents could receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 40 paid days in a rolling 6-month period, for up to 30 hours per week. Parents had to verify their job search with either receipt of unemployment compensation, a registration page from the New Hampshire Job Match System, or participation in the New Hampshire Employment Program. The state extended the amount of time parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job to 92 calendar days, and eliminated the requirement to verify the job search for parents already receiving assistance, as of July 2017. Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 92 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period before the end of that 92-day period. Parents can receive child care assistance during multiple periods of job search, but not more than 92 days consecutively. Parents can continue to receive assistance to cover the same amount of child care while searching for a job as they did prior to the start of the job search.

