

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *NORTH DAKOTA*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In February 2017, a family of three in North Dakota could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$44,724 (219 percent of poverty, 60 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** North Dakota had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2017.
- **Parent copayments:** In February 2017, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$20,420 a year) receiving child care assistance in North Dakota paid \$75 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 \$218 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2017, North Dakota'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.
 - North Dakota's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$565, which was \$100 (15 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - North Dakota's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$663, which was \$107 (14 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2017, North Dakota did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2017, North Dakota allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job.³ However, 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 As of March 2017, the income limit was changed to \$44,664 (60 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.
- 2 Families receiving services through the Crossroads program (which provides support to parents up to age 21 so they can continue their education), families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and families receiving Diversion Assistance (short-term benefits and services) are exempt from copayments.
- 3 Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 3 consecutive months within a 12-month eligibility period or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.
- 4 The state only allows parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving or transitioning from TANF.

