

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: OHIO

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2017, a family of three in Ohio could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$26,208 (128 percent of poverty, 40 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Ohio 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 Ohio paid \$123 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 \$228 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2017, Ohio'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.
 - Ohio's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was \$570,³ which was \$341 (37 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Ohio's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was \$713,⁴ which was \$412 (37 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2017, Ohio had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
 - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) at the highest quality tier was 40 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2017, Ohio allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 91 days while searching for a job.⁵ However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.⁶

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 could continue doing so until their income reached \$60,480. As of October 2017, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$26,556 (130 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$61,260 (300 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2017 federal poverty level.
- 2 Homeless families and families receiving protective child care services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2016 federal poverty level (\$20,160 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2017.
- 3 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 4 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 5 Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 91 days or until the end of the eligibility period, whichever comes first.
- 6 Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and job search is an approved activity.

