

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *UTAH*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2017, a family of three in Utah could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$35,676 (175 percent of poverty, 58 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Utah 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 Utah had no copayment. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$30,630 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$167 per month, or 7 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2017, Utah'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.
 - Utah's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$568, which was \$30 (5 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Utah's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$758, which was \$22 (3 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2017, Utah did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2017, Utah allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job.³ Parents can also initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job, or continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job, for up to 150 hours in a 6-month period under the state's separate Kids-In-Care program.

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 This income limit takes into account a standard deduction of \$100 per month (\$1,200 a year) for each working parent, assuming there is one working parent in the family, and a standard deduction of \$100 per month (\$1,200 a year) for all families to help cover any medical expenses. The stated income limit, in policy, was \$33,276 in February 2017. Also note that in February 2017, families already receiving assistance could remain eligible up to a stated income limit of \$41,592. The stated income limit to qualify for special needs care was \$50,508 in February 2017. As of October 2017, for standard care, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$34,248 (56 percent of state median income) and the stated exit eligibility limit was increased to \$42,804 (70 percent of state median income), and for special needs care, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$51,984 (85 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.
- 2 These copayment amounts were calculated based on adjusted income, taking into account the income deductions discussed above. Also note that families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are exempt from copayments, and families transitioning from TANF are exempt from copayments for up to six months. In addition, families with adjusted 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 Parents must notify the state of a job loss within 10 days. Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 3-month period. In February 2017, parents were only allowed one 3-month job search period per 12-month eligibility period, but the state planned to revise its policy to allow parents 3 months of job search after each instance of job loss.

