

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *VERMONT*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2017, a family of three in Vermont could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$60,480 (296 percent of poverty, 85 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Vermont 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 Vermont paid \$6 per month, or less than 1 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 \$260 per month, or 10 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2017, Vermont'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.
  - Vermont's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$809,<sup>3</sup> which was \$152 (16 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Vermont's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$846,<sup>4</sup> which was \$193 (19 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2017, Vermont 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 40 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 2017, Vermont 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 3 months.<sup>5</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 April 2017, the state began allowing families already receiving assistance to continue receiving it up to an income of \$62,676 (85 percent of state median income); the state did not previously have a separate exit eligibility limit. As of September 2017, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$61,260 (300 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2017 federal poverty level.
- 2 The state determines copayments based on the cost of care; these copayments were calculated assuming that the family was purchasing care at the state's maximum base payment rate for center care for a four-year-old. Also note that children who are in protective custody may be exempted from copayments if requested by their social worker.
- 3 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the most common rate level (the level representing the greatest number of providers).
- 4 This 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 3 months even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 3-month period.

