



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: VIRGINIA

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2017, Virginia had four different regional income limits for a family of three to qualify for child care assistance, ranging from \$30,240 per year (148 percent of poverty, 38 percent of state median income) to \$50,400 per year (247 percent of poverty, 63 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Virginia had 9,611 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2017.²
- **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 Virginia paid \$102 per month, or 6 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 \$204 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.³
- **Payment rates:** In 2017, Virginia'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.
 - Virginia's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Fairfax County was \$1,147, which was \$260 (18 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Virginia's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Fairfax County was \$1,364, which was \$281 (17 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2017, Virginia did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2017, Virginia did not allow parents to receive 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 The state has different income limits for different regions of the state. In February 2017, the state's four separate regional income limits were: \$30,240, \$32,256, \$37,296, and \$50,400. As of October 2017, the income limits were increased to \$30,630 (150 percent of poverty), \$32,672 (160 percent of poverty), \$37,777 (185 percent of poverty), and \$51,060 (250 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2017 federal poverty level.
- 2 Families receiving or transitioning from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and families participating in the TANF work program are served without being placed on the waiting list.
- 3 Families eligible for TANF and families enrolled in Head Start, or participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training program, whose income is at or below poverty are exempt from copayments.
- 4 In February 2017, parents could not receive child care assistance while searching for a job (unless they were receiving TANF and job search was one of their approved activities), but families had to be provided at least 10 days' advance notice before their case was closed. The state planned to begin allowing families receiving child care assistance to continue to receive it while searching for a job until the end of their eligibility period; the state was promulgating regulations as of September 2017.

