

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *HAWAII*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2018, a family of three in Hawaii could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$47,124 (227 percent of poverty, 62 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Hawaii had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2018.
- **Parent copayments:** In 2018, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$20,780 a year) receiving child care assistance in Hawaii paid \$296 per month, or 17 percent of its income, in copayments. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$31,170 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$518 per month, or 20 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>1</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2018, Hawaii'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.
  - Hawaii's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$740,<sup>2</sup> which was \$170 (19 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.<sup>3</sup>
  - Hawaii's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$1,490, which was \$305 (17 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2018, Hawaii had higher payment rates for higher-quality care for preschool-age children.<sup>4</sup>
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was 24 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.<sup>5</sup>
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2018, Hawaii 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 30 days.<sup>6</sup>

Source: Karen Schulman, *Overdue for Investment: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2018* (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2018). These data reflect policies as of February 2018, unless otherwise indicated.

- 1 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 base payment rate for center care for a four-year-old. Also note that families receiving protective services and foster children are exempt from copayments. In 2018, families with incomes at or below 50 percent of the 2004 federal poverty level for Hawaii (\$9,012 a year for a family of three) were also exempt from copayments.
- 2 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care for preschool-age children; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 3 For center care for preschoolers, the state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at each quality level. The base rate is compared here to the 75th percentile for providers at the same quality level
- 4 The state has higher payment rates for accredited center-based care for children over age 24 months through the time the children are eligible to enroll in kindergarten or junior kindergarten (usually age five by the end of the calendar year, depending on the child's birth date). The state does not have accredited rates for care for infants and toddlers or for family child care.
- 5 The rate at the highest quality level is compared here to the 75th percentile for providers at that same level.
- 6 Parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 30 consecutive days once in a 12-month period. The state planned to extend the amount of time parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job to 3 months in the summer of 2019.

