

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: MICHIGAN

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2018, a family of three in Michigan could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$26,556 (128 percent of poverty, 40 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Michigan 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 Michigan paid \$32 per month, or 2 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 \$65 per month, or 3 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2018, Michigan'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.
 - Michigan's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$682,³ which was \$183 (21 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Michigan's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$926,⁴ which was \$101 (10 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2018, Michigan 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 55 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 2018, Michigan allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while searching for a job until the end of their 12-month eligibility period. However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.

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 In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$56,460 (85 percent of state median income).
- 2 Children attending a program with a three-, four-, or five-star rating in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels), families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), children receiving protective services, foster children, families receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, migrant farmworker families, and homeless families are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level (\$20,420 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018.
- 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.

