



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *NEW HAMPSHIRE*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2018, a family of three in New Hampshire could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$44,924 (216 percent of poverty, 52 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire paid \$130 per month, or 7 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 \$325 per month, or 12 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2018, New Hampshire'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.
  - New Hampshire's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$801,<sup>3</sup> which was \$130 (14 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - New Hampshire's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$963,<sup>4</sup> which was \$184 (16 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2018, New Hampshire 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 10 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 February 2018, New Hampshire allowed parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance, and allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it, for up to 92 days while searching for a job.<sup>5</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 In February 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$51,050. As of July 2018, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$45,716 (220 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$51,950 (250 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2018 federal poverty level.
- 2 Foster children may be exempted from copayments on a case-by-case basis. In addition, homeless families may be exempted from copayments for up to 30 calendar days to allow time for them to submit information required for eligibility determination.
- 3 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 4 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 5 Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 92 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 92-day period (although they must complete the redetermination process at the end of the eligibility period). Parents must verify their job search with either receipt of unemployment compensation, a registration page from the New Hampshire Job Match System, or participation in the New Hampshire Employment Program.

