



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: OREGON

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2018, a family of three in Oregon could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$37,788 (182 percent of poverty, 61 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Oregon had 1,890 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2018.<sup>2</sup>
- **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 Oregon paid \$188 per month, or 11 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 \$491 per month, or 19 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>3</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2018, Oregon'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.
  - Oregon's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Group Area A (Portland) was \$965,<sup>4</sup> which was \$135 (12 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.<sup>5</sup>
  - Oregon's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Group Area A (Portland) was \$1,255<sup>6</sup>, which was \$200 (14 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2018, Oregon had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Group Area A (Portland) at the highest quality tier was 9 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Group Area A (Portland) at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2018, Oregon allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job.<sup>7</sup> 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 February 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$51,780. As of March 2018, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$38,448 (185 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2018 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$52,860 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.
- 2 Families with a parent or child who had received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in one of the three preceding months; parents reapplying for child care assistance within two months of their case closing; families referred from child welfare services when an ongoing safety plan states that child care is needed to keep (or return) a child home, with a relative, or other known adult; families with a parent or child who is currently eligible or has been eligible for domestic violence survivor benefits in any of the preceding three months; and families applying for an open slot with a contracted child care program are served without being placed on the waiting list when the state has a list in effect. The state was serving all eligible families who had been on the waiting list and was no longer placing families on the waiting list as of March 2018.
- 3 Families receiving TANF and with a working parent, families with a parent searching for a job following the loss of employment or with an unemployed parent who has moved into the home, and families who qualify for a six-month military transition period are exempt from copayments.
- 4 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 5 Group Area A includes the Ashland, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Monmouth, and Portland areas.
- 6 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 7 Parents can continue receiving child care assistance 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.

