



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: VIRGINIA

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2018, Virginia had four different regional income limits for a family of three to qualify for child care assistance, ranging from \$30,630 per year (147 percent of poverty, 38 percent of state median income) to \$51,060 per year (246 percent of poverty, 64 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Virginia had 3,728 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2018.²
- **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 Virginia paid \$103 per month, or 6 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 \$207 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.³
- **Payment rates:** In 2018, 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.⁴
 - Virginia's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Fairfax County was \$1,147, which was \$401 (26 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 \$442 (24 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2018, Virginia did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In February 2018, Virginia did not allow parents to receive child care assistance while searching for a job.⁵

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, the state had four different income limits for different regions of the state: \$30,630, \$32,672, \$37,777, and \$51,060. As of October 2018, the income limits were increased to \$31,176 (150 percent of poverty), \$33,252 (160 percent of poverty), \$38,448 (185 percent of poverty), and \$51,960 (250 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2018 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 This analysis reflects payment rates as of February 2018. The state increased payment rates for licensed providers to the 70th percentile of 2018 market rates as of June 2018.
- 5 In February 2018, 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. As of October 2018, parents already receiving child care assistance can continue receiving it while searching for a job until the end of their 12-month eligibility period.

