

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

## STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: *WYOMING*

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2018, a family of three in Wyoming could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$38,136 (184 percent of poverty, 55 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Wyoming 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 Wyoming had no copayment. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$31,170 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$43 per month, or 2 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2018, Wyoming'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.
  - Wyoming's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$521, which was \$129 (20 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Wyoming's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$573, which was \$178 (24 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2018, Wyoming did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2018, Wyoming allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 90 days while searching for a job.<sup>3</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 This income limit takes into account a standard deduction of \$200 per month (\$2,400 a year) for each working parent, assuming there is one working parent in the family. The stated income limit, in policy, was \$35,736 in February 2018. In February 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their stated income reached \$45,948. As of April 2018, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$36,360 (175 percent of poverty), and the stated exit eligibility limit was increased to \$46,752 (225 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2018 federal poverty level.
- 2 These copayment amounts were calculated based on adjusted income, taking into account the income deductions discussed above. Families with adjusted income at or 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 Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.

