



CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES: **ARIZONA**

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2018, a family of three in Arizona could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$33,708 (162 percent of poverty, 58 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Arizona had 755 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 Arizona paid \$65 per month, or 4 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.³
- **Payment rates:** In 2018, Arizona'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.
 - Arizona's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) was \$515,⁴ which was \$368 (42 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Arizona's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) was \$576,⁵ which was \$423 (42 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2018, Arizona had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.⁶
 - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) 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 in Maricopa County (Phoenix) at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2018, Arizona allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job.⁷ However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.⁸

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 whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional three months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed \$49,056 (85 percent of state median income). As of October 2018, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$34,287 (165 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2018 federal poverty level.
- 2 Families receiving or transitioning from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) who need child care for employment, families receiving TANF and with parents participating in the state's employment and training program, families referred by the Department of Child Safety, and families who reside in a homeless or domestic violence shelter are served without being placed on the waiting list.
- 3 Families receiving TANF and children receiving protective services 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 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 6 This analysis reflects tiered payment rates in effect as of February 2018. As of April 2018, the state increased its tiered rate for nationally accredited care from 10 percent to 20 percent above the base rate, and began paying providers with a four-star rating under the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) a tiered rate that is 10 percent above the base rate and providers with a five-star rating a tiered rate that is (like that for accredited providers) 20 percent above the base rate.
- 7 Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.
- 8 Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and participating in the Jobs Program.

