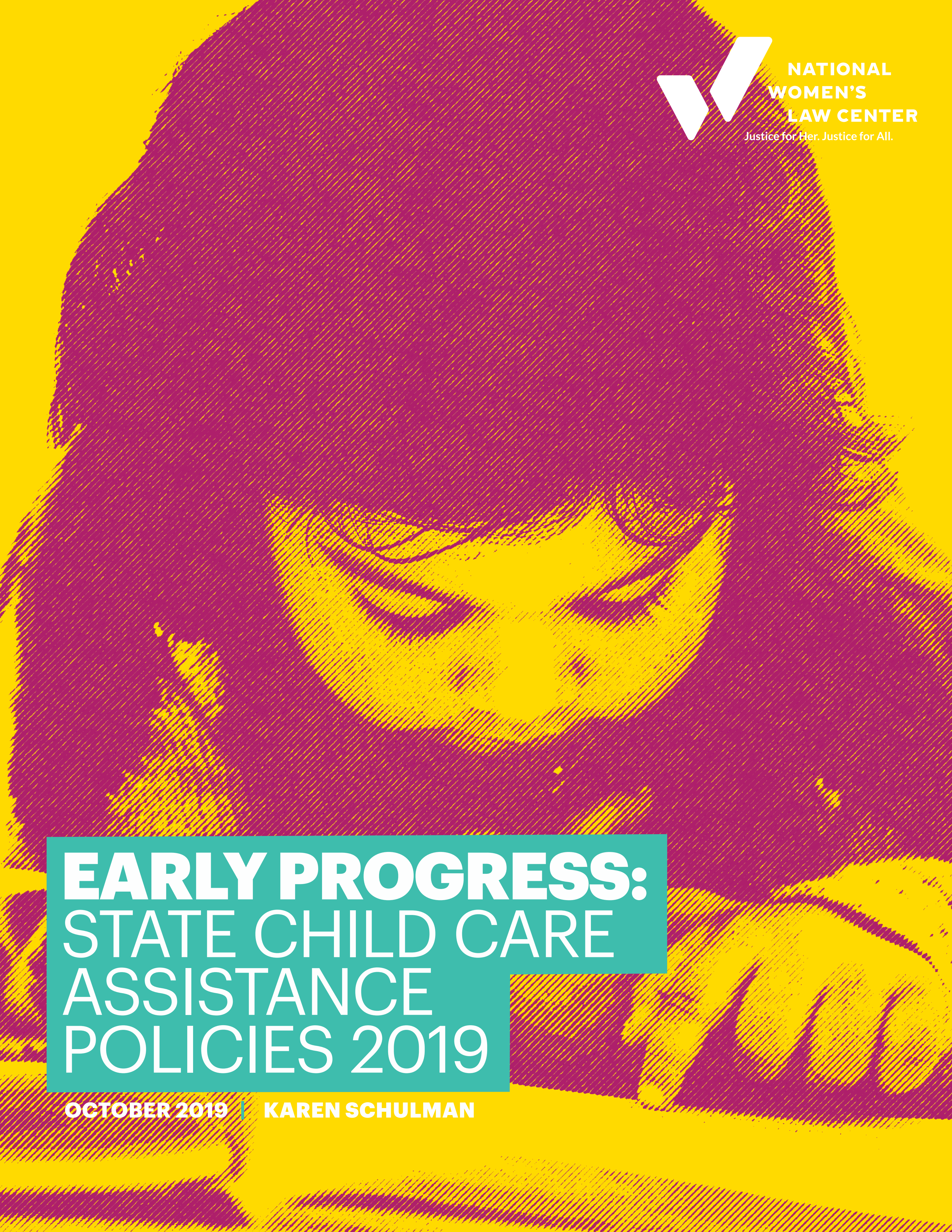

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER
Justice for Her. Justice for All.

EARLY PROGRESS: STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES 2019

OCTOBER 2019 | KAREN SCHULMAN

THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER (NWLC)

fights for gender justice—in the courts, in public policy, and in society—working across the issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. NWLC uses the law in all its forms to change culture and drive solutions to the gender inequity that shapes society and to break down the barriers that harm everyone—especially those who face multiple forms of discrimination, including women of color, LGBTQ people, and low-income women and families. For more than 45 years, the organization has been on the leading edge of every major legal and policy victory for women.

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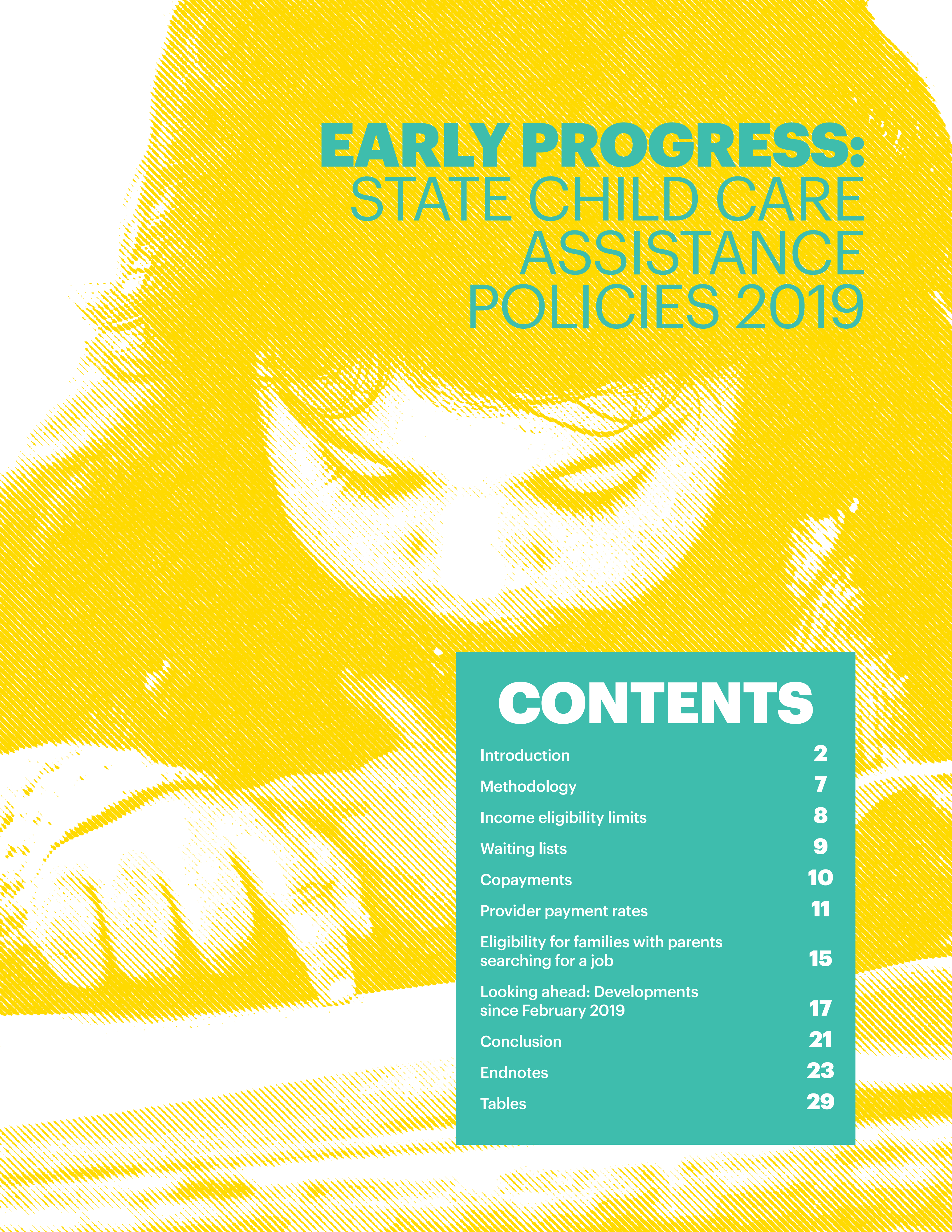

EARLY PROGRESS: STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES 2019

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INTRODUCTION

Child care is crucial for the well-being of parents, children, and our nation. It enables parents to work and support their families. It gives children a safe, nurturing environment to learn and develop skills they need to succeed in school and in life.[1] And, by strengthening the current and future workforce, it boosts our nation's economy. Yet many families, particularly low-income families,[2] struggle with the high cost of child care. The average annual cost for full-time care ranges from over $3,800 to nearly $20,900, depending on the age of the child, the type of care, and where the family lives.[3] These costs can strain families' budgets, force parents to use lower-cost care even if they would prefer other options for their children, or prevent parents from working because they cannot afford care. Child care assistance can enable families to overcome these challenges by helping families pay for child care.

Given the importance of child care assistance to families, it is essential for states to have strong child care assistance policies. Under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the major federal child care assistance program, states have flexibility to set policies within federal parameters. This report examines states' policies in five key areas—income eligibility limits to qualify for child care assistance, waiting lists for child care assistance, copayments required of parents receiving child care assistance, payment rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance, and eligibility for child care assistance for parents searching for a job. These policies are fundamental to determining families' ability to obtain child care assistance and the extent of help that assistance provides.

Between February 2018 and February 2019, states were able to make meaningful progress in their key child care assistance policies due to a historic increase of $2.37 billion approved by Congress in March 2018. The total number of children on waiting lists for child care assistance decreased by 55 percent. Over half of the states increased payment rates for child care providers serving families receiving assistance, with an average increase of over $100 per month per child. These and other improvements have made a real difference for families trying to afford high-quality child care and providers working to offer it. Yet, significant gaps remain in child care funding and policies. Total funding for child care in FY 2019—even after the increase—remained nearly $1 billion short of the total funding level in FY 2001 after adjusting for inflation.[4] As a result of inadequate funding, nearly one-third of states still have waiting lists or frozen intake for assistance, only a handful of states set payment rates at federally recommended levels, and other state policies make it difficult for families to get the help they need. Significant additional federal and state investments will be necessary to address these remaining gaps.

OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL TRENDS

Overall, families in thirty-nine states were better off—having greater access to assistance and/or receiving greater benefits from assistance—in February 2019 than in February 2018 under one or more child care assistance policies covered in this report.[5] Families in seven states were worse off under one or more of these policies in February 2019 than in February 2018.[6] This year is the seventh year in a row in which the situation for families improved in more states than it worsened, following

	Number of states in which families were better off under one or more child care assistance policies covered in this report	Number of states in which families were worse off under one or more child care assistance policies covered in this report
February 2019 compared to February 2018	39	7
February 2018 compared to February 2017[7]	33	19
February 2017 compared to February 2016[8]	41	14
February 2016 compared to February 2015[9]	31	15
February 2015 compared to February 2014[10]	32	16
February 2014 compared to February 2013[11]	33	13
February 2013 compared to February 2012[12]	27	24
February 2012 compared to February 2011[13]	17	27
February 2011 compared to February 2010[14]	11	37

two years in which the situation worsened for families in more states than it improved. However, many of the improvements that states made prior to February 2018 were very modest.

States were able to make meaningful progress in their key child care assistance policies due to a historic increase of $2.37 billion approved in 2018.

FUNDING AND POLICY CONTEXT

The negative trends between 2010 and 2012 resulted at least in part from states' exhaustion of the $2 billion in additional federal funding for CCDBG for FY 2009 and FY 2010 provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA);[15] states had to obligate all of the funds by September 2010 and expend those funds by September 2011.[16] The slight increases in annual federal funding for CCDBG in FY 2011 and FY 2012 were not sufficient to keep pace with inflation, much less compensate for the loss of ARRA funds.

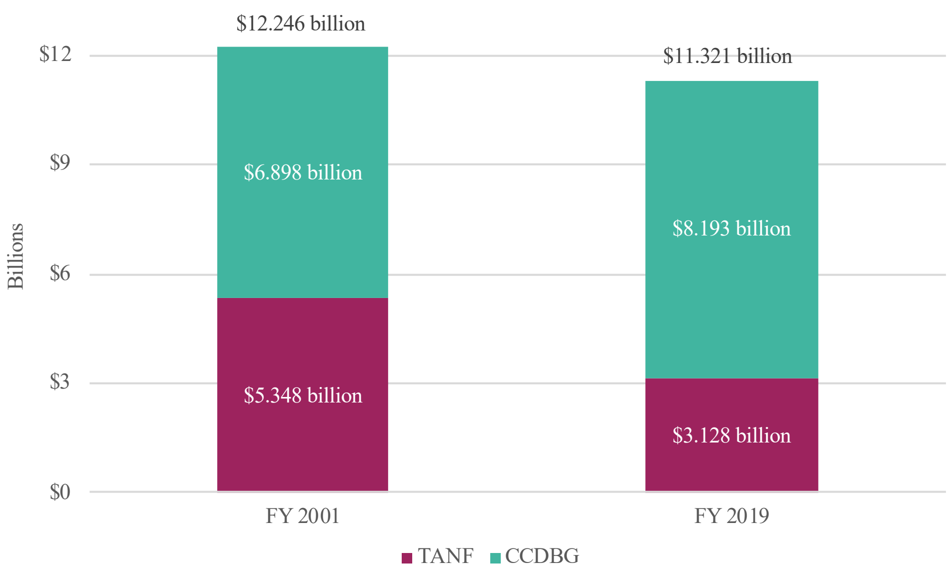
In contrast, states made some limited progress on child care assistance policies in subsequent years as federal child care funding stabilized. After declining slightly from FY 2012 to FY 2013, due to across-the-board federal budget cuts under the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011[17] (commonly known as the sequester), CCDBG funding increased gradually each year from FY 2013 to FY 2017; after adjusting for inflation, CCDBG funding in FY 2017 was nearly equal to the funding level in FY 2011.[18] In addition, states' overall economies and fiscal situations improved, leading to fewer budget cuts and increased investments in critical areas.[19]

After years of small increases that were only sufficient to keep pace with inflation, Congress finally approved a major CCDBG funding increase for FY 2018 in March 2018.[20] Congress then maintained—and slightly expanded upon—this increase in FY 2019.[21] This report illustrates the positive impacts of the additional funds on key state child care assistance policies; a separate National Women's Law Center report describing how states are using their CCDBG funds demonstrates the impacts on a broader range of state child care policies and initiatives.[22]

One of the most common ways in which states are using their additional CCDBG funds is to implement the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which reauthorized (renewed and updated) the program.[23] The law made important changes to the CCDBG program intended to ensure the health and safety of children in child care, enhance the quality of care, and make it easier for families to obtain and retain child care assistance. The effective dates for various provisions of the Act were staggered over several years, with some extending as late as 2019,[24] and states were allowed to request waivers for additional time to implement certain provisions. For the first few years after the law's passage, states struggled to implement its new requirements—such as for increased monitoring of child care providers, provider background checks, and provider training—because the law was not initially accompanied by the new funding needed to cover the substantial additional costs involved. The increase in CCDBG funding has enabled states to make further progress toward fully complying with the law. The reauthorization law does not establish specific new requirements for most of the key policy areas covered in this report; a separate NWLC report examines policies more directly affected by the law.[25] The one policy area addressed in this report that is directly affected by the reauthorization law involves child care assistance for parents while they are searching for a job; the law requires states to allow families receiving child care assistance to continue to receive that assistance for at least three months while a parent looks for a job.[26] As shown in this report, most states are now in compliance with this requirement.

Even with the substantial increase in CCDBG funding, states still do not have sufficient resources to completely address all competing priorities, including fully implementing provisions of the reauthorization law, expanding the availability of child care assistance for families, and improving the quality of care. Significant additional investments will be needed to ensure that all of these goals are achieved and that all families have equitable access to stable, high-quality child care.

Total CCDBG and TANF Funding for Child Care (in FY 2019 dollars)



FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE IN 2019, 2018, AND 2001

The federal CCDBG program, the primary source of funding for child care assistance, received a major increase—of $2.37 billion—in FY 2018. That increase was maintained in FY 2019, and CCDBG funding was expanded slightly above the FY 2018 level, although not by enough to keep pace with inflation. Federal CCDBG funding grew from $5.773 billion[27] ($6.080 billion after adjusting for inflation)[28] in FY 2017, to $8.143 billion[29] ($8.367 billion after adjusting for inflation)[30] in FY 2018, to $8.193 billion in FY 2019.[31] Funding in FY 2019 was above the funding level in FY 2010, when ARRA boosted funding—$6.044 billion before adjusting for inflation,[32] or $7.301 billion in FY 2019 dollars.[33] In addition, unlike the ARRA funding, which was intended as a temporary increase in response to the recession, the FY 2018 increase was made as part of the regular, annual appropriations process and has been sustained. CCDBG funding in FY 2019 was also above the FY 2002 funding level after adjusting for inflation—$7.098 billion in FY 2019 dollars[34]—which was the peak funding level prior to ARRA.

Another important source of child care funding is the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. States may transfer up to 30 percent of their TANF block grant funds to CCDBG, or use TANF funds directly for child care without first transferring the money. States' use of TANF dollars for child care (including both transfers and direct funding) was $3.044 billion in FY 2018 (the most recent year for which data are available),[35] below the high of $3.966 billion in FY 2000[36] even without adjusting for inflation. (In FY 2019 dollars, use of TANF funds for child care was $3.128 billion in FY 2018 compared to $6.200 billion in FY 2000.[37])

Total federal child care funding from CCDBG and TANF in FY 2019, assuming use of TANF funds was the same as the FY 2018 inflation-adjusted amount, was $11.321 billion. Even with the significant CCDBG funding increase, total funding for child care in FY 2019 remained below total funding in FY 2001 after adjusting for inflation—$12.246 billion in FY 2019 dollars.[38]

Total funding for child care in FY 2019—even after the increase—remained nearly $1 billion short of the total funding level in FY 2001 after adjusting for inflation.

SUMMARY OF KEY POLICIES AS OF FEBRUARY 2019 AND CHANGES SINCE 2018 AND 2001

Changes in states' policies between February 2018 and February 2019 and between 2001 and February 2019 are described in more detail below, but in summary:

- **Income eligibility limits** reveal how generous a state is in determining whether families qualify for child care assistance.[39] In 2019, a family with an income above 150 percent of poverty ($31,995 a year for a family of three) could not qualify for child care assistance in thirteen states. Between 2018 and 2019, three states increased their income limits for child care assistance by a dollar amount that exceeded inflation; thirty-nine states increased their income limits as a dollar amount to adjust for inflation, as measured against the change in the state median income or federal poverty level;[40] eight states kept their income limits the same as a dollar amount; and one state lowered its income limit as a dollar amount. Between 2001 and 2019, income limits declined as a percentage of the federal poverty level in twenty-two states.[41]
- **Waiting lists** help reveal whether families who qualify for child care assistance actually receive it. Fifteen states had waiting lists or frozen intake for child care assistance in 2019, a decline from the nineteen states in 2018 and the twenty-one states in 2001 with waiting lists or frozen intake. In 2019, there were over 132,000 fewer children on waiting lists than in 2018, and nearly 95,000 fewer children on waiting lists than in 2001.
- **Parent copayment levels** reveal whether low-income parents receiving child care assistance have significant out-of-pocket costs for child care. The nationwide average amount that families who pay for child care spend on child care is 7.2 percent of income, but in 2019, copayments for families receiving child care assistance were higher than 7.2 percent of income for a family at 150 percent of poverty in twenty-six states, and for a family at 100 percent of poverty in nine states. For a family at 150 percent of poverty, copayments as a percentage of income decreased in nine states, increased in four states, and stayed the same in the remaining states between 2018 and 2019. For a family at 100 percent of poverty, copayments as a percentage of income decreased in four states, increased in two states, and stayed the same in the remaining states between 2018 and 2019. In approximately half of the states, families paid a higher percentage of their income in copayments in 2019 than in 2001.
- **Provider payment rates** reveal the extent to which families receiving child care assistance may be limited in their choice of child care providers and providers serving families receiving assistance may be limited in the quality of care they can offer to families. Twenty-nine states increased at least some of their payment rates for providers serving families receiving child care assistance between 2018 and 2019. Yet, only four states had all of their base payment rates at the federally recommended level in 2019, just slightly higher than the one state with rates at the recommended level in 2018, and significantly lower than the twenty-two states with rates at the recommended level in 2001. Forty-two states had higher payment rates for higher-quality care (tiered rates) in 2019—one more state than in 2018.[42] However, in over two-thirds of these states, even the higher rates were below the federally recommended level in 2019.
- **Eligibility policies for parents searching for work** reveal whether families can receive child care assistance while a parent seeks employment, so that a child's care arrangement is not disrupted and the family has child care available as soon as the parent finds a job. Fifty states allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job in 2019, one more state than in 2018. Eleven states allowed families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2019, the same number of states as in 2018.[43]

METHODOLOGY

The National Women's Law Center collected the data in this report from state child care administrators in the fifty states and the District of Columbia (counted as a state in this report). NWLC sent the state child care administrators a survey in the spring of 2019 requesting data on policies as of February 2019 in five key areas—income eligibility limits, waiting lists, parent copayments, provider payment rates, and eligibility for child care assistance for parents searching for a job. The survey also asked state administrators to report on any policy changes that the state had made since February 2018 or expected to make after February 2019 in each of the five areas. The survey questions about these policy areas were largely the same as in surveys of state administrators conducted by NWLC in previous years. NWLC contacted state administrators for follow-up information as necessary. NWLC obtained supplementary information about states' policies from documents available on state agencies' websites.

NWLC collected the 2018 data used in this report for comparison purposes through a similar process and analyzed these data in NWLC's October 2018 report, *Overdue for Investment: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2018*. The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) collected the 2001 data used in this report and analyzed these data in CDF's report, *State Developments in Child Care, Early Education and School-Age Care 2001*. CDF staff collected the data through surveys and interviews with state child care advocates and verified the data with state child care administrators. The CDF data reflect policies in effect as of June 1, 2001, unless otherwise indicated. NWLC uses 2001 as a basis for comparison because it was the year between the peak year for TANF funding for child care, FY 2000, and what was the peak year for CCDBG funding, FY 2002, prior to FY 2010, when ARRA provided a temporary boost in CCDBG funding (see the section above on funding for child care assistance).

INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS

A family's access to child care assistance depends on a state's income eligibility limit. The family's ability to obtain child care assistance is affected not only by a state's income limit in a given year, but also by whether the state adjusts the limit for inflation each year so that the family does not become ineligible for assistance simply because its income keeps pace with inflation.

Between 2018 and 2019, forty-two states increased their income eligibility limits as a dollar amount by enough to keep pace with or exceed inflation, as measured against the change in the federal poverty level or state median income, depending on which benchmark the state used.[44] However, eight states did not increase their income limits as a dollar amount, and one state reduced its income limit. Between 2001 and 2019, most states increased their income limits as a dollar amount; yet, over two-fifths of the states failed to increase their income limits sufficiently to keep pace with inflation, as measured against the change in the federal poverty level,[45] or reduced their income limits as a dollar amount. In addition, over two-thirds of the states had income limits at or below 200 percent of poverty in 2019.

- Three states increased their income eligibility limits by a dollar amount that exceeded inflation between 2018 and 2019 (*see Table 1a*).[46]
- Thirty-nine states increased their income eligibility limits as a dollar amount to adjust for inflation between 2018 and 2019, including thirty-five states that adjusted for one year of inflation,[47] as well as four states that adjusted for two years of inflation to make up for previous years in which they had not adjusted for inflation.[48]
- Eight states kept their income eligibility limits the same as a dollar amount between 2018 and 2019.[49]
- One state lowered its income eligibility limit as a dollar amount between 2018 and 2019.[50]
- Forty-seven states increased their income eligibility limits as a dollar amount between 2001 and 2019 (*see Table 1b*). In seventeen of these states, the increase was great enough that the income limit was higher as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 2019 than in 2001. In twelve of these states, the increase was great enough that the income limit stayed the same, or nearly the same, as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 2019 as in 2001.[51] However, in eighteen of these states, the increase was not sufficient to keep pace with the federal poverty level, so the income limit was lower as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 2019 than in 2001.
- Four states lowered their income eligibility limits as a dollar amount between 2001 and 2019. In these states, the income limit decreased as a percentage of the federal poverty level, bringing to twenty-two the total number of states in which the income limit failed to keep pace with the increase in the federal poverty level between 2001 and 2019.
- A family with an income above 100 percent of the federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three in 2019) could qualify for child care assistance in all states in 2019. However, a family with an income above 150 percent of poverty ($31,995 a year for a family of three in 2019) could not qualify for assistance in thirteen states. A family with an income above 200 percent of poverty ($42,660 a year for a family of three in 2019) could not qualify for assistance in a total of thirty-five states. Yet, in every county and city across the country, a family needs an income above 200 percent of poverty to adequately afford their basic needs, including housing, food, child care, transportation, health care, and other necessities, according to data from the Economic Policy Institute.[52]

WAITING LISTS

Even if families are eligible for child care assistance, they may not necessarily receive it. Instead, their state may place eligible families who apply for help on a waiting list or freeze intake (turn away eligible families without adding their names to a waiting list). Families may remain on the waiting list for a long time before receiving child care assistance, or may never receive it. Without the help they need to afford child care, families on the waiting list must make painful choices. According to several studies,[53] many of these families struggle to pay for reliable, good-quality child care while paying for other basic necessities such as food and rent, or turn to low-cost—and frequently low-quality—care. Some families simply cannot afford child care at all, which can make it impossible for parents to work.

In 2019, over two-thirds of the states were able to serve eligible families who applied for child care assistance without placing any on waiting lists or freezing intake, but nearly one-third of the states had waiting lists or frozen intake for at least some families applying for assistance. Fewer states had waiting lists or frozen intake in 2019 than in 2018 or 2001, and the total number of children on waiting lists in 2019 was lower than in 2018 or 2001.[54]

The amount of time families spend on the waiting list for child care assistance ranges widely across states, from as little as a few weeks or months to as much as a year or more.

- Fifteen states had waiting lists or frozen intake in 2019,[55] compared to nineteen states in 2018 and twenty-one states in 2001 (*see Table 2*).
- Over 132,000 fewer children were on waiting lists in 2019 than in 2018—a decrease of 55 percent (from over 240,000 children). Approximately 95,000 fewer children were on waiting lists in 2019 than in 2001—a decrease of 47 percent (from nearly 203,000 children).[56]
- Of the fifteen states that had waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2018 and 2019, ten states had shorter waiting lists in 2019 than in 2018, and two states had longer waiting lists. In the remaining three states with waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2018 and 2019, it was not possible to compare the length of waiting lists based on the available data.
- Of the thirteen states that had waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2001 and 2019, five states had shorter waiting lists in 2019 than in 2001, and four states had longer waiting lists. In the remaining four states with waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2001 and 2019, it was not possible to compare the length of waiting lists based on the available data.
- Among the eight states with waiting lists that reported data on the length of time families spent on the waiting list for 2019, the average length of time families spent on the waiting list before receiving child care assistance was less than six months in four states,[57] between six months and a year in three states,[58] and more than two years in one state.[59] The average length of time on the waiting list was shorter in 2019 than in 2018 in three states, the same in 2019 as in 2018 in two states, and longer in 2019 than in 2018 in three states.[60]

Over 132,000 fewer children were on waiting lists in 2019 than in 2018— a decrease of 55 percent.

COPAYMENTS

Most states require families receiving child care assistance to contribute toward their child care costs based on a sliding fee scale that is designed to charge progressively higher copayments to families at progressively higher income levels. A few states also take into account the cost of care used by a family in determining the amount of the family's copayment. Copayment levels matter because if they are high, they can place a serious financial burden on families or may discourage families from participating in the child care assistance program.

This report analyzes state copayment policies by considering two hypothetical families: a family of three with an income at 100 percent of the federal poverty level and a family of three with an income at 150 percent of the federal poverty level.[61] In most states, families paid the same percentage of their income in copayments in 2019 as in 2018. However, in about half of the states, families paid a higher percentage of their income in copayments in 2019 than in 2001.

Copayments were high in many states in 2019. Nationwide, families who pay for child care (including those who receive child care assistance and those who do not) spend an average of 7.2 percent of their income on child care.[62] The CCDBG regulations finalized in September 2016 recommend that copayments charged to parents receiving child care assistance not exceed this nationwide average[63]—but many states still fail to meet this benchmark. In approximately one-fifth to half of the states, depending on income, a family receiving child care assistance was required to pay more than 7.2 percent of its income in copayments in 2019.

- In nine states, copayments for a family of three at 150 percent of poverty[64] decreased as a percentage of income between 2018 and 2019 (*see Table 3a*). In thirty-eight states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In four states, copayments increased as a percentage of income.[65]
- In eighteen states, copayments for a family of three at 150 percent of poverty[66] decreased as a percentage of income between 2001 and 2019. In seven states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In twenty-three states, copayments increased as a percentage of income. In three states, a family at 150 percent of poverty was eligible for child care assistance in 2019 but not 2001.
- In four states, copayments for a family of three at 100 percent of poverty decreased as a percentage of income between 2018 and 2019 (*see Table 3b*). In forty-five states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In two states, copayments increased as a percentage of income.
- In sixteen states, copayments for a family of three at 100 percent of poverty decreased as a percentage of income between 2001 and 2019. In eight states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In twenty-seven states, copayments increased as a percentage of income.
- In twenty-six states, the copayment for a family of three at 150 percent of poverty was above $192 per month (7.2 percent of income) in 2019. This includes ten states where the copayment for a family at this income level was $267 per month (10 percent of income) or higher.
- In nine states, the copayment for a family of three at 100 percent of poverty was above $128 per month (7.2 percent of income) in 2019. This includes three states where the copayment for a family at this income level was $178 per month (10 percent of income) or higher.

PROVIDER PAYMENT RATES

States set payment rates for child care providers who care for children receiving child care assistance. The payment rate is a ceiling on the amount the state will pay providers, and a provider will be paid at that rate if the fee the provider charges to parents who pay out of their own pocket (private-paying parents) is equal to or greater than the rate. If a provider charges private-paying parents a fee that is below the payment rate, the state will pay the provider an amount equal to the private-pay fee. Payment rates may vary by geographic region, age of the child, type of care, and other factors.

Payment rates help determine whether child care providers have the resources to support salaries that are sufficient to attract and retain qualified staff and that allow child care workers to have financial security for themselves and their families; low child-staff ratios that enable children to receive one-on-one attention; facilities that are safe and suited to children's needs; and materials and supplies for activities that encourage children's learning and development. Inadequate payment rates can discourage high-quality providers from enrolling families who receive child care assistance. Providers that do enroll these families can be deprived of the resources needed to offer high-quality care to the vulnerable children who could benefit most from it—and these providers can sometimes find it impossible to even keep their doors open.

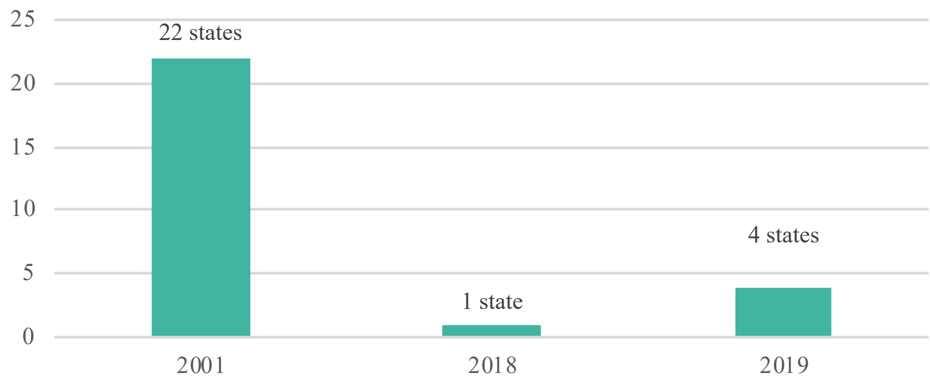
Over half of the states increased their payment rates between 2018 and 2019. Yet, most states still fail to set their payment rates at the federally recommended level—the 75th percentile of current market rates,[67] a rate that is designed to allow families access to 75 percent of the providers in their communities. In 2019, just four states set their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates, only a small increase from the one state that did so in 2018, and still far below the twenty-two states that set their payment rates at the recommended level in 2001.[68] In 2019, the remaining forty-seven states set their payment rates below the 75th percentile of current market rates, including many states that set their rates significantly below the 75th percentile.

When the payment rate is below the fee a child care provider charges private-paying parents, over three-quarters of the states allow providers to ask parents receiving child care assistance to cover the difference (beyond any required copayment). While this approach may prevent child care providers from losing income, it shifts the financial burden to low-income families who strain to afford the additional charge.

- Four states set their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates (rates from 2017 or 2018) in 2019 (*see Table 4a*),[69] slightly higher than the one state that did so in 2018, but substantially lower than the twenty-two states that set their payment rates at this level in 2001 (*see Table 4b*).

In 2019, forty-seven states set their payment rates below the 75th percentile of current market rates.

Number of States with Provider Payment Rates at the 75th Percentile of Current Market Rates



- Thirty-four states increased at least some of their payment rates between 2017 and 2019,[70] including twenty-nine states that increased their rates between 2018 and 2019.[71] No state reduced its rates between 2017 and 2019. The remaining seventeen states did not update their payment rates between 2017 and 2019. All states updated their payment rates between 2001 and 2019.
    - Among states that increased their base payment rates for center care for a four-year-old between 2018 and 2019, the average increase was $107 per month per child (*see Table 4c*).
    - Among states that increased their base payment rates for center care for a one-year-old between 2018 and 2019, the average increase was $118 per month per child.
- In twenty-three states, payment rates for center care for a four-year-old in 2019 were at least 20 percent below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data) for this type of care (*see Table 4d*).[72]
- In twenty states, payment rates for center care for a one-year-old in 2019 were at least 20 percent below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data) for this type of care.[73]
- In nineteen states, payment rates for center care for a four-year-old in 2019 were at least $200 per month below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data) for this type of care. With a gap of $200 per child per month, a classroom of twenty four-year-olds receiving child care assistance would get $48,000 less per year than it would if the payment rate was at the recommended level.
- In twenty-two states, payment rates for center care for a one-year-old in 2019 were at least $200 per month below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data) for this type of care.
- Thirty-nine states allowed child care providers to charge parents receiving child care assistance the difference between the payment rate and the fee that the provider charged private-paying parents if the payment rate was lower in 2019—the same number of states as in 2018.[74]

Twenty-nine states increased their provider payment rates between 2018 and 2019.

Forty-two states had higher payment rates (tiered rates) for child care providers that met higher-quality standards in 2019,[75] one more state than in 2018.[76] Some states had a single higher payment rate; other states had progressively higher payment rates for progressively higher levels of quality. Tiered payment rates can offer child care providers incentives and support to improve the quality of their care. However, it is important for the differential to be large enough to cover the additional costs entailed in raising quality sufficiently to qualify for a higher rate. These costs include expenses for additional staff to reduce child-staff ratios, increased salaries for teachers with advanced education in early childhood development, teacher training and professional development, facilities upgrades, and/or new equipment and materials. Yet, in over two-thirds of states with tiered rates, the highest rate fell below the 75th percentile of current market rates. In nearly one-third of the states with tiered rates, the highest payment rate was less than 20 percent above the base rate.

- Forty-two states paid higher rates for higher-quality care in 2019, compared to forty-one states in 2018 (*see Table 4e*).[77] While most of these states had tiered rates that applied across different age groups, one state only paid tiered rates for providers caring for children from two years of age to kindergarten entry[78] and one state only paid tiered rates for providers caring for children up to 2.9 years of age.[79]

- Seven of the forty-two states with tiered rates in 2019 had two rate levels (including the base level),[80] six states had three levels, fifteen states had four levels, nine states had five levels, three states had six levels, and two states had seven levels.[81]

- In over two-thirds of the forty-one states with tiered rates for center care for a four-year-old in 2019, the payment rate for this type of care at the highest quality level was below the 75th percentile of current market rates (which includes providers at all levels of quality) for this type of care.[82]

  - In twenty-nine of the forty-one states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data).[83] In eight of these states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was at least 20 percent below the 75th percentile.

  - In one of the forty-one states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was equal to the 75th percentile of market rates.

  - In eleven of the forty-one states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was above the 75th percentile of market rates. In five of these states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was at least 10 percent above the 75th percentile.

- Among the forty-one states with tiered rates for center care for a four-year-old, the difference between a state's lowest rate and highest rate for this type of care ranged from 5 percent to 117 percent in 2019.[84] The difference between a state's lowest and highest rates was not consistently related to whether the state's highest rate was above or below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data).

  - In two of the forty-one states, the highest rate was 5 percent to 9 percent greater than the lowest rate. In one of these two states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.

- In eleven of the forty-one states, the highest rate was 10 percent to 19 percent greater than the lowest rate. In six of these eleven states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.

- In sixteen of the forty-one states, the highest rate was 20 percent to 29 percent greater than the lowest rate. In eleven of these sixteen states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.

- In twelve of the forty-one states, the highest rate was at least 30 percent greater than the lowest rate. In eleven of these twelve states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.

- In eight states, the amount of the differential between the lowest and highest rates for center care for a four-year-old was greater in 2019 than in 2018.[85] In seven states, the amount of the differential between the lowest and highest rates was smaller in 2019 than in 2018;[86] in six of these states, the highest rate increased between 2018 and 2019, but so did the lowest rate, and in one of these states, the highest rate stayed the same between 2018 and 2019, while the lowest rate increased. In the remaining twenty-five states with tiered rates for center care for a four-year-old in both years, the differential between the lowest and highest rates was the same in 2019 as in 2018.

Inadequate payment rates can discourage high-quality providers from enrolling families who receive child care assistance. Providers that do enroll these families can be deprived of the resources needed to offer high-quality care.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FAMILIES WITH PARENTS SEARCHING FOR A JOB

Child care assistance can help parents get or keep the child care they need while searching for an initial job or a new job. Parents can more readily start work if they can make their child care arrangements before they find a job rather than having to wait until after they find a job to make those arrangements. In addition, children can have greater stability if they can remain in the same child care arrangement without disruption when a parent loses one job and is searching for another job.

As previously described, the CCDBG Act of 2014 requires states to allow families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for at least three months while a parent searches for a job. States had until at least September 30, 2016, to implement this provision,[87] and some states received waivers allowing them additional time beyond that to implement the provision.[88] Neither the law nor the federal regulations require states to allow families to qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while a parent searches for a job.

In 2019, fifty states allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for at least some amount of time while a parent searched for a job, one more state than in 2018. Forty-eight of these states allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to three months (or an equivalent amount of time) or until the end of their eligibility period—policies that are consistent with the requirements of the CCDBG Act of 2014—including three states that came into compliance with the law between 2018 and 2019. Three states still did not have policies that aligned with the law's requirements on continued assistance for parents searching for a job, but—as described in the following section on changes in policies since February 2019—one of these states revised its policies after February 2019 to come into compliance with the law.

Children can have greater stability if they can remain in the same child care arrangement without disruption when a parent loses one job and is searching for another job.

Only eleven states allowed families to qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2019, the same number of states as in 2018.[89]

- Fifty states allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job in 2019, compared to forty-nine states in 2018 (*see Table 5*). Forty-eight of these states had policies that complied with the requirements of the CCDBG Act of 2014.
    - Ten states allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job until the end of the family's twelve-month eligibility period in 2019. One of these states did not allow parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job in 2018, and one of these states only allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to twenty-one days in 2018.

- o One state allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to sixteen weeks. This state increased the length of time families could continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job from thirteen weeks in 2018.
- o Thirty-seven states allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to three months or the equivalent (ninety, ninety-one, or ninety-two days, or twelve or thirteen weeks) in 2019.[90] One of these states increased the length of time families could continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job from eight weeks in 2018.

- Two states allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job in 2019, but did not allow parents sufficient time to continue receiving assistance while searching for a job to comply with the CCDBG Act of 2014.
  - o One of these states allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to only two months in 2019, the same as in 2018.
  - o One of these states allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to only thirty days in 2019, the same as in 2018.
- One state permitted localities to determine whether families receiving child care assistance could continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job in 2019, the same as in 2018. Localities in this state could allow families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to six months (if funds were available).
- Eleven states allowed families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2019, the same as in 2018.
  - o One state allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to twelve months in 2019, the same as in 2018.
  - o Six states allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to three months or the equivalent (ninety-two days or twelve weeks) in 2019. One of these states increased the length of time families could qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job from eight weeks in 2018.
  - o Among the remaining four states that allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job, the time limit ranged from 150 hours to two months in 2019.
- Two states permitted localities to determine whether families not receiving child care assistance could qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2019, the same as in 2018.
- Thirty-eight states did not allow families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2019, the same as in 2018.

Fifty states allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job in 2019.

LOOKING AHEAD: DEVELOPMENTS SINCE FEBRUARY 2019

Although this report primarily focuses on changes between February 2018 and February 2019, states reported on some changes they made or expected to make after February 2019. Twenty-one states reported that they had made improvements in one or more of the policies covered in this report after February 2019. Two states reported that they had made cutbacks in one or more of the policies covered in this report after February 2019 (including one state that made improvements in other policies).

- Five states increased their income eligibility limits for child care assistance by an amount that exceeded annual inflation after February 2019.[91]
    - California increased its income limit to qualify for assistance from 70 percent of the 2016 state median income ($54,027 a year for a family of three) to 85 percent of the 2018 state median income ($69,626 a year for a family of three) as of July 2019.
    - Illinois increased its income limit to qualify for assistance from 185 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($39,468 a year for a family of three) to 200 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($42,660 a year for a family of three) as of October 2019.[92]
    - Oklahoma increased its income limit to qualify for assistance to 85 percent of state median income ($48,708 a year for a family of three) as of March 2019; previously, the income limit for a family of three was $35,100.[93]
    - South Dakota increased its income limit to qualify for assistance from 175 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level ($36,372 a year for a family of three) to 209 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($44,592 a year for a family of three) as of March 2019.[94]
    - Utah increased its income limit to qualify for assistance from 56 percent of the 2018 state median income ($35,016 a year for a family of three) to 60 percent of the 2019 state median income ($38,832 a year for a family of three) as of October 2019.[95]
- One state reduced the number of children on its waiting list for child care assistance, and one state began serving all eligible children whose families applied for assistance rather than placing them on the waiting list, after February 2019.
    - Arizona, which had 2,420 children on the waiting list as of February 2019, was serving all eligible children who had been on the waiting list and no longer placing additional children on a waiting list as of June 2019.
    - Virginia's waiting list decreased from 7,053 children as of February 2019 to 739 children as of September 2019.
- One state increased the number of children on its waiting list for child care assistance after February 2019.

- North Carolina's waiting list increased from 29,201 children as of January 2019 to 40,204 children as of June 2019.

- Two states reduced copayments for families receiving child care assistance after February 2019.

  - Oklahoma reduced copayments for families as of March 2019. For example, the monthly copayment for a family of three at 150 percent of poverty ($31,995 a year) was reduced from $239 (9 percent of income) to $192 (7 percent of income), and the monthly copayment for a family of three at 100 percent of poverty ($21,330 a year) was reduced from $146 (8 percent of income) to $128 (7 percent of income).

  - South Dakota, which had exempted families with adjusted incomes below 150 percent of poverty ($31,995 a year for a family of three) from copayments, extended this exemption to families with adjusted incomes below 160 percent of poverty ($34,140 a year for a family of three) as of March 2019.[96] The state also reduced copayments for other families as of March 2019. For example, the monthly copayment for a family of three with an adjusted income of 165 percent of poverty ($35,195 a year) was reduced from $267 (9 percent of income) to $44 (2 percent of income).

Twenty-one states reported that they had made improvements in one or more key child care assistance policies after February 2019.

- Fifteen states increased their base payment rates[97] for providers serving families receiving child care assistance after February 2019.[98]

  - Arizona increased its base payment rates from the 75th percentile of 2000 market rates to the 50th percentile of 2010 market rates or the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates, whichever was higher, as of June 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County increased from $515 to $693.

  - Colorado began requiring counties—which previously set their own payment rates—to set their base payment rates at the 10th percentile of 2017 market rates for care for preschool- and school-age children and at the 25th percentile for care for infants and toddlers as of July 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Denver increased from $682 to $915.

  - Connecticut increased its base payment rates for centers to at least the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates as of October 2019.[99] For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region increased from $693 to $879.

  - Delaware increased its base payment rates from the 50th to the 65th percentile of 2018 market rates as of July 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in New Castle County increased from $574 to $652.

  - Georgia increased its base payment rates for care for preschool- and school-age children to the 25th percentile of 2017 market rates as of September 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Zone 1 (which includes Atlanta and the surrounding counties) increased from $494 to $537.

- o Maryland increased its base payment rates from at least the 20th percentile of 2017 market rates to the 30th percentile of 2019 market rates as of June 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Region W (which includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, and Prince George's Counties) increased from $628 to $823.

- o Massachusetts increased its base payment rates to the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates (if not already at or above that level) as of July 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in the Northeast Region increased from $1,472 to $1,494.

- o Missouri increased its base payment rates as of August 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in St. Louis increased from $406 to $628.

- o Nebraska increased its base payment rates as of July 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties increased from $812 to $849.

- o Nevada increased its base payment rates from the 75th percentile of 2004 market rates to the 55th percentile of 2015 market rates as of March 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Clark County increased from $498 to $779.

- o New Jersey increased its base payment rates as of September 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old statewide increased from $645 to $677.

- o New York increased its base payment rates from the 69th percentile of 2015 market rates to the 69th percentile of 2017-2018 market rates as of May 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in New York City increased from $1,048 to $1,251.

- o Ohio increased its base payment rates from the 26th percentile of 2008 market rates to the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates (if not already at or above that level) as of July 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Franklin County increased from $637 to $712.

- o Tennessee increased its base payment rates as of April 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Top Tier counties (counties with the highest populations and/or per capita incomes) increased from $429 to $515.

- o Wyoming increased its payment rates to the 25th percentile of 2017 market rates (if not already at or above that level) as of October 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old statewide increased from $521 to $541.

- One state added a new payment rate tier for higher-quality care, one state increased its tiered payment rates for higher-quality care, and one state began implementing higher payments for higher-quality care, after February 2019.

  - o Arizona, which already paid providers with a four-star rating under the state's quality rating and improvement system a tiered rate that is 10 percent above the base rate and five-star providers a tiered rate that is 20 percent above the base rate, began paying three-star providers a tiered rate that is 5 percent above the base rate as of June 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County is $727 for a three-star center, compared to the base rate (which also increased) of $693.

- Delaware increased tiered payment rates in May 2019 and again in July 2019. For example, the monthly payment rate for care for a four-year-old in New Castle County increased from $693 to $802 for a three-star center, from $805 to $933 for a four-star center, and from $883 to $1,023 for a five-star center, compared to the base rate (which also increased) of $652.

- Utah started providing additional payments, on top of the base payment rate, to providers with high-quality and high-quality-plus ratings in its new quality rating and improvement system as of October 2019. Providers rated as high quality will receive an additional payment of $175 per month per child, and providers rated as high quality plus will receive an additional payment of $200 per month per child (based on the average number of children receiving assistance per month during the previous 12 months).

- One state increased the amount of time families already receiving assistance can continue receiving it while a parent searches for a job, but stopped allowing families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searches for a job, after February 2019.

  - Nebraska extended the amount of time families can continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searches for a job from two months to three months as of October 2019. However, the state also stopped allowing families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searches for a job as of October 2019; previously, families could qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to two months.

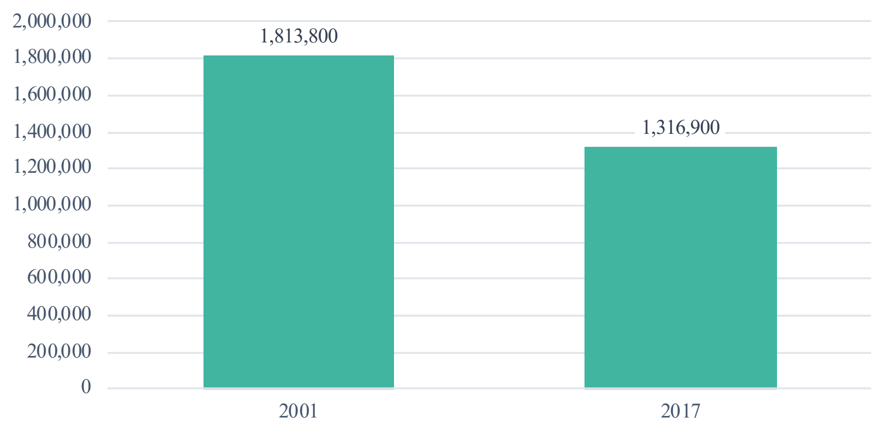
CONCLUSION

Families' access to child care assistance and/or the extent of assistance they could receive increased under one or more key child care assistance policies in three-quarters of the states, while families' access to assistance and/or the extent of assistance decreased under one or more key policies in just seven states (including some states that had both improvements and cutbacks), between February 2018 and February 2019. States made significant strides during that time due to the major increase in CCDBG funding approved in March 2018.

While states used their increased CCDBG funding to make progress on their policies, they still have a long way to go. Many states have income limits for child care assistance that remain too restrictive or waiting lists that remain too long, leaving families unable to qualify for help, or unable to receive help even when they qualify for it. Many states have copayments that are so high that families able to receive child care assistance still have a heavy financial burden. And most states' payment rates—even for higher-quality care—are so low that families receiving assistance have few child care options and providers willing to serve these families struggle to cover their costs. Together, these barriers prevent far too many families from accessing the affordable, high-quality care they need and prevent far too many child care providers—particularly those in low-income neighborhoods—from paying adequate salaries to their teachers or even staying in business.

In addition to the key child care assistance policy areas addressed in this report, data on the number of eligible children able to receive assistance also illustrate the longstanding gaps in access to assistance. Only one in six children eligible for federal child care assistance received it in 2016 (the most recent year for which data are available).[100] And the number of children receiving child care assistance through CCDBG declined by

Number of Children Receiving CCDBG Assistance



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care.

approximately 500,000 between 2001 and 2017 (the most recent year for which these data are available),[101] even though the number of children living in low-income families in 2017 was higher than in 2001.[102] The recent increase in CCDBG funding will not be enough to fully restore the number of children served to previous levels, much less reach the millions of additional children who are eligible for child care assistance but not being served.

While the recent increase in CCDBG funding enabled states to begin strengthening their child care assistance policies and broadening access to child care assistance, it was only a start. Further federal and state investments will be needed to ensure states can provide child care assistance to all eligible families who want it; pay child care providers at adequate levels so that they can offer high-quality child care and fairly compensate their teachers and staff; and implement the CCDBG reauthorization law's specific requirements and achieve its broader goals. Expanded investments will allow parents to have the affordable, reliable child care they need to get and stay employed, children to have the early learning opportunities they need for their healthy and successful development, child care teachers to have the compensation they need to support themselves and their own families, and our nation to have the productive workforce it needs now and in the future for a thriving economy.

While the recent increase in CCDBG funding enabled states to begin strengthening their child care assistance policies and broadening access to child care assistance, it was only a start.

ENDNOTES

1 Research demonstrates the important role that high-quality child care plays in giving children a strong start. Eric Dearing, Kathleen McCartney, and Beck A. Taylor, Does Higher Quality Early Child Care Promote Low-Income Children's Math and Reading Achievement in Middle Childhood?, Child Development, 80 (5), 2009, 1329-1349; National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine, From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development (Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2000); Ellen S. Peisner-Feinberg, Richard M. Clifford, Mary L. Culkin, Carollee Howes, Sharon Lynn Kagan, et al., The Children of the Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study Go to School (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center, 1999); Suzanne Helburn, Mary L. Culkin, Carollee Howes, Donna Bryant, Richard Clifford, Debby Cryer, Ellen Peisner-Feinberg, and Sharon Lynn Kagan, Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers (Denver, CO: University of Colorado, 1995).

2 In 2018 (the most recent year for which data are available), 6.0 million families with children under age six (37.1 percent) had incomes under 200 percent of poverty. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Detailed Table POV08: Families With Related Children Under 6 by Number of Working Family Members and Family Structure: 2018, *available at* https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-pov/pov-08.html.

3 Child Care Aware of America, The US and the High Price of Child Care: An Examination of a Broken System (Arlington, VA: Child Care Aware of America, 2019), *available at* http://usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/resources/priceofcare/.

4 This report uses 2001 policies as the basis for comparison because, until 2010, it was the year between the peak year for CCDBG funding, 2002, and the peak year for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding used for child care, 2000. See box on funding for child care assistance in 2019, 2018, and 2001.

5 These thirty-nine states are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Families were considered better off under state child care assistance policies between 2018 and 2019 if during that time period the state increased its income eligibility limit to qualify for child care assistance by an amount that exceeded an annual inflation adjustment; reduced its waiting list, served all families on the waiting list, or unfroze intake; reduced parent copayments for families at 100 percent of poverty and/or 150 percent of poverty as a percentage of income; increased provider payment rates as a dollar amount; increased or began implementing differential (tiered) payment rates for higher-quality care; and/or increased the amount of time families could receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job or started allowing families to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job.

6 These seven states are Arizona, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Nebraska, Oregon, and Virginia. Five of these states are also included in the list of thirty-nine states above because in these states, families were worse off under some policies, but better off under other policies. Families were considered worse off under state child care assistance policies between 2018 and 2019 if during that time period the state reduced its income eligibility limit to qualify for child care assistance as a dollar amount; implemented a waiting list, increased its waiting list, or froze intake; increased parent copayments for families at 100 percent of poverty and/or 150 percent of poverty as a percentage of income; reduced provider payment rates as a dollar amount or stopped paying providers at the federally recommended level, the 75th percentile of current market rates; reduced tiered rates for higher-quality care; and/or reduced the length of time families could receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job or stopped allowing families to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job.

7 Karen Schulman, Overdue for Investment: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2018 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2018), *available at* https://nwlc.org/resources/overdue-for-investment-state-child-care-assistance-policies-2018/. These counts include sixteen states in which families were better off under some policies and worse off under others.

8 Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Persistent Gaps: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2017 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2017), *available at* https://nwlc.org/resources/persistent-gaps-state-child-care-assistance-policies-2017/. These counts include eleven states in which families were better off under some policies and worse off under others.

9 Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Red Light Green Light: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2016 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2016), *available at* https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/NWLC-State-Child-Care-Assistance-Policies-2016-final.pdf. These counts include eight states in which families were better off under some policies and worse off under others.

10 Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Building Blocks: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2015 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2015), *available at* https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/CC_RP_Building_Blocks_Assistance_Policies_2015.pdf. These counts include eleven states in which families were better off under some policies and worse off under others.

11 Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Turning the Corner: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2014 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2014), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/nwlc_2014statechildcareassistancereport-final.pdf. These counts include eight states in which families were better off under some policies and worse off under others.

12 Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Pivot Point: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2013 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2013), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/final_nwlc_2013statechildcareassistancereport.pdf. These counts include twelve states in which families were better off under some policies and worse off under others.

13 Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Downward Slide: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2012 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2012), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/NWLC2012_StateChildCareAssistanceReport.pdf. These counts include six states in which families were better off under some policies and worse off under others.

14 Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, State Child Care Assistance Policies 2011: Reduced Support for Families in Challenging Times (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2011), *available at* http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/state_child_care_assistance_policies_report2011_final.pdf. These counts include seven states in which families were better off under some policies and worse off under others.

15 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Pub. L. No. 111–8, 123 Stat. 524 (2009).

16 Program Instruction (CCDF-ACF-PI-2009-03), Issued April 9, 2009, *available at* http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/pi2009_03.pdf.

17 Budget Control Act of 2011, Pub. L. No. 112–25, 125 Stat. 240 (2011).

18 CCDBG funding was $5.140 billion in FY 2011 ($6.078 billion in FY 2019 dollars), $5.195 billion in FY 2012 ($6.017 billion in FY 2019 dollars), $5.123 billion in FY 2013 ($5.834 billion in FY 2019 dollars), $5.275 billion in FY 2014 ($5.899 billion in FY 2019 dollars), $5.352 billion in FY 2015 ($5.873 billion in FY 2019 dollars), $5.678 billion in FY 2016 ($6.124 billion in FY 2019 dollars), and $5.773 billion in FY 2017 ($6.080 billion in FY 2019 dollars). FY 2011 and FY 2012 funding levels from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Fiscal Year 2013 Budget in Brief (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012), 88, 92, *available at* https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asfr/budget/budgets-in-brief-performance-reports/index.html. FY 2013 funding level from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Fiscal Year 2015 Budget in Brief (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014), 108, 113, *available at* http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/budget/fy2015/fy-2015-budget-in-brief.pdf. FY 2014 and FY 2015 funding levels from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FY 2016 President's Budget for HHS (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2015), 120, 125, *available at* http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/budget/fy2016/fy-2016-budget-in-brief.pdf. FY 2016 funding level from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FY 2017 President's Budget for HHS (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016), 132, 139, *available at* http://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy2017-budget-in-brief.pdf. FY 2017 funding level from Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, Pub. L. No. 115–31, 131 Stat. 532 (2017); Office of Management and Budget, Appendix: Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2018 (2017), 461, *available at* https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BUDGET-2018-APP/pdf/BUDGET-2018-APP.pdf. Inflation adjustments calculated by National Women's Law Center using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

19 National Association of State Budget Officers, The Fiscal Survey of States: Spring 2018 (Washington, DC: NASBO, 2018), *available at* http://www.nasbo.org/mainsite/reports-data/fiscal-survey-of-states/fiscal-survey-archives; National Association of State Budget Officers, The Fiscal Survey of States: Spring 2016 (Washington, DC: NASBO, 2016), *available at* http://www.nasbo.org/mainsite/reports-data/fiscal-survey-of-states/fiscal-survey-archives; National Association of State Budget Officers, The Fiscal Survey of States: Spring 2015 (Washington, DC: NASBO, 2015), *available at* http://www.nasbo.org/mainsite/reports-data/fiscalsurvey-of-states/fiscal-survey-archives; National Association of State Budget Officers, The Fiscal Survey of States: Spring 2014 (Washington, DC: NASBO, 2014), *available at* http://www.nasbo.org/mainsite/reports-data/fiscal-survey-of-states/fiscal-survey-archives; National Conference of State Legislatures, State Budget Update: Spring 2014 (Denver, CO: NCSL, 2014), *available at* http://www.ncsl.org/documents/fiscal/SPRING_SBU_2014_free.pdf; National Conference of State Legislatures, State Budget and Tax Actions: Preliminary Report (August 2013) (Denver, CO: NCSL, 2013), *available at* http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/fiscal/SBTA_PreliminaryReport_final.pdf; Elizabeth McNichol, States Should React Cautiously to Recent Income Tax Growth: April Surge Provides Opportunity to Invest in Infrastructure, Boost Reserves (Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2013), *available at* http://www.cbpp.org/files/6-13-13sfp.pdf.

20 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, H.R. 1625, 115th Cong. 381-382 (2018) (enacted), *available at* https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr1625/BILLS-115hr1625enr.pdf; Office of Management and Budget, Appendix, Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2019 (2018), 464, *available at* https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/appendix-fy2019.pdf.

21 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families FY 2020 Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2019), 75, *available at* https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/olab/acf_congressional_budget_justification_2020.pdf.

22 National Women's Law Center, States Use New Child Care and Development Block Grant Funds to Help Children and Families: Update (2019), *available at* https://nwlc.org/resources/states-use-new-child-care-development-block-grant-funds-help-children-families/.

23 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1971 (2014).

24 *See* Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1971 (2014).

25 Karen Schulman, The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014: Update on State Implementation of Key Policies (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2019), *available at* https://nwlc-ciw49tixgw5lbab.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/NWLC-update-on-state-implementation-of-CCDBG-reauthorization-final.pdf.

26 *See* Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1971, 1979 (2014). The federal Office of Child Care allowed states until September 30, 2016, to implement provisions in the law for which an effective date is not specified, including this provision. *See* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, Draft Child Care and Development Fund Plan Preprint for Public Comment, September 14, 2015, 5, *available at* https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/fy2016_2018_ccdf_plan_preprin_draft_for_public_comment_91415.pdf. In addition, the Office of Child Care granted waivers to a number of states for certain provisions, including this provision. *See* National Women's Law Center, Child Care and Development Fund Plans FY 2016-2018: State Waivers and Corrective Actions (2016), *available at* https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CCDF-State-Plans-FY-2016-2018-State-Waivers-and-Corrective-Actions-FINAL.pdf.

27 This amount includes $2.856 billion in discretionary funding and $2.917 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, Pub. L. No. 115–31, 131 Stat. 532 (2017); Appendix: Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2018, 461.

28 National Women's Law Center calculations using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

29 This amount includes $5.226 billion in discretionary funding and $2.917 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, H.R. 1625, 115th Cong. 381-382 (2018) (enacted); Office of Management and Budget, Appendix, Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2019 (2018), 464.

30 National Women's Law Center calculations using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

31 This amount includes $5.276 billion in discretionary funding and $2.917 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families FY 2020 Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, 75.

32 This amount includes $2.127 billion in discretionary funding, $2.917 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding, and $1 billion in ARRA funding (assuming that the additional $2 billion in CCDBG funding for states to obligate in FY 2009 and FY 2010 provided through ARRA allowed for $1 billion in ARRA funds each year for FY 2009 and FY 2010). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Fiscal Year 2011 Budget in Brief (Washington, DC: U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services, 2010), 75, 79, *available at* https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asfr/budget/budgets-in-brief-performance-reports/index.html.

33 National Women's Law Center calculations using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

34 CCDBG funding in FY 2002, before adjusting for inflation, was $4.817 billion. This amount includes $2.1 billion in discretionary funding and $2.717 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FY 2003 President's Budget for HHS (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2002), 83, 92, *available at* https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asfr/budget/budgets-in-brief-performance-reports/index.html. Inflation adjustment calculated by National Women's Law Center using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

35 This total includes $1.498 billion transferred to CCDBG and $1.547 billion spent directly on child care (including both that categorized as "assistance" and "non-assistance"). National Women's Law Center analysis of data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Fiscal Year 2018 TANF Financial Data, Table A.1.: Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures Summary by ACF-196 Spending Category, FY 2018, *available at* https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2018.

36 This total includes $2.413 billion transferred to CCDBG, $353 million spent on child care categorized as "assistance," and $1.200 billion spent on child care categorized as "non-assistance." National Women's Law Center analysis of data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Fiscal Year 2000 TANF Financial Data, Table A. Combined Federal Funds Spent in FY 2000 Through the Fourth Quarter, *retrieved from* http://archive.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/tanf_2000.html.

37 National Women's Law Center calculations using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

38 In FY 2001, CCDBG funding was $4.567 billion ($6.898 billion in FY 2019 dollars) and TANF funding used for child care was $3.541 billion ($5.348 billion in FY 2019 dollars). The CCDBG funding amount includes $2.0 billion in discretionary funding and $2.567 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FY 2002 President's Budget for HHS (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2001), 89-90, *available at* https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asfr/budget/budgets-in-brief-performance-reports/index.html. The TANF funding amount includes $1.899 billion transferred to CCDBG, $285 million spent on child care categorized as "assistance," and $1.357 billion spent on child care categorized as "non-assistance." National Women's Law Center analysis of data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Fiscal Year 2001 TANF Financial Data, Table A. Combined Federal Funds Spent in FY 2001 Through the Fourth Quarter, *retrieved from* http://archive.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/tanf_2001.html. CCDBG and TANF amounts in FY 2019 dollars calculated by National Women's Law Center using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

39 This report focuses on the income criteria used to determine a family's eligibility when it first applies for assistance because this traditionally has been used as the measure of access to benefit programs and determines whether a family can enter the program. However, many states allow families to continue to receive assistance up to a higher income level than the initial eligibility limit. Information about states that have different entrance and exit income eligibility limits is provided in the notes to Tables 1a and 1b.

40 The federal poverty level for a family of three was $21,330 in 2019. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2019, *available at* https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines. The federal poverty level for a family of three was $20,780 in 2018. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2018 Poverty Guidelines, *available at* https://aspe.hhs.gov/2018-poverty-guidelines.

41 The federal poverty level for a family of three was $14,630 in 2001. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The 2001 HHS Poverty Guidelines, *available at* http://aspe.hhs.gov/2001-hhs-poverty-guidelines.

42 Comparable data were not collected for 2001.

43 Comparable data were not collected for 2001.

44 For Texas, which allows local workforce development boards to set their income limits within a state-specified range, the maximum of that range is used for the analysis in this report. For Virginia, which has four different income limits for each of four different regions, the highest regional income limit is used for the analysis in this report.

45 State median income is not used to measure inflation between 2001 and 2019 because variations among states in state median income adjustments and in the benchmark states use to set their income eligibility limits are more difficult to track than changes in the federal poverty level over a long-term period.

46 These three states include Colorado (which increased the minimum level at which its counties can set their income limits from 165 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level to 185 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level), Louisiana (which increased its income limit from 55 percent of the 2015 state median income to 55 percent of the 2019 state median income), and Maryland (which increased its income limit from 50 percent of the 2001 state median income to 65 percent of the 2018 state median income). In most instances, the states included in the counts referenced in the text of this report are discernible from the tables following the endnotes. When the states are not easily discernible from the tables, the endnotes identify the states referenced.

47 These thirty-five states include twenty-five states (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming) that set their income limits based on the federal poverty level and adjusted their income limits for the 2018 federal poverty level; eight states (Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Carolina, and Texas) that set their income limits based on state median income and adjusted their income limits for the 2019 state median income; one state (Utah) that set its income limit based on state median income and adjusted its income limit for the 2018 state median income; and one state (California) that set its income limit based on state median income and adjusted its income limit for the 2016 state median income between February 2018 and February 2019.

48 These four states include one state (Wisconsin) that set its income limit based on the federal poverty level and adjusted its income limit from the 2017 to 2019 federal poverty level; one state (Montana) that set its income limit based on the federal poverty level and adjusted its income limit from the 2016 to 2018 federal poverty level; and two states (Maine and Tennessee) that set their income limits based on state median income and

adjusted their income limits from the 2017 to 2019 state median income between February 2018 and February 2019.

49 These eight states are Alaska, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, and Oklahoma.

50 This state is Delaware (which reduced its income limit from 200 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level to 185 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level).

51 These twelve states include three states in which the income limit decreased by five percentage points, two states in which the income limit decreased by four percentage points, one state in which the income limit stayed the same, three states in which the income limit increased by one percentage point, one state in which the income limit increased by two percentage points, one state in which the income limit increased by three percentage points, and one state in which the income limit increased by four percentage points as a percentage of the federal poverty level.

52 National Women's Law Center analysis of data from Elise Gould, Zane Mokhiber, and Kathleen Bryant, The Economic Policy Institute's Family Budget Calculator (Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute, 2018), *available at* https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/; and from Sylvia Allegretto, Basic Family Budgets: Working Families' Incomes Often Fail to Meet Living Expenses Around the U.S. (Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute, 2005), *available at* http://www.epi.org/page/-/old/briefingpapers/165/bp165.pdf.

53 *See*, e.g., Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, In Their Own Voices: Parents and Providers Struggling with Child Care Cuts (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2005), 10; Children's Action Alliance, The Real Reality of Arizona's Working Families—Child Care Survey Highlights (Phoenix, AZ: Children's Action Alliance, 2004); Deborah Schlick, Mary Daly, and Lee Bradford, Faces on the Waiting List: Waiting for Child Care Assistance in Ramsey County (Ramsey County, MN: Ramsey County Human Services, 1999) (Survey conducted by the Minnesota Center for Survey Research at the University of Minnesota); Philip Coltoff, Myrna Torres, and Natasha Lifton, The Human Cost of Waiting for Child Care: A Study (New York, NY: Children's Aid Society, 1999); Jennifer Gulley and Ann Hilbig, Waiting List Survey: Gulf Coast Workforce Development Area (Houston, TX: Neighborhood Centers, Inc., 1999); Jeffrey D. Lyons, Susan D. Russell, Christina Gilgor, and Amy H. Staples, Child Care Subsidy: The Costs of Waiting (Chapel Hill, NC: Day Care Services Association, 1998); Casey Coonerty and Tamsin Levy, Waiting for Child Care: How Do Parents Adjust to Scarce Options in Santa Clara County? (Berkeley, CA: Policy Analysis for California Education, 1998); Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth, et al., Use of Subsidized Child Care by Philadelphia Families (Philadelphia, PA: Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth, 1997); Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, Valuing Families: The High Cost of Waiting for Child Care Sliding Fee Assistance (Minneapolis, MN: Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, 1995).

54 Waiting lists are not a perfect measure of unmet need, however. For example, waiting lists may increase due to expanded outreach efforts that make more families aware of child care assistance programs, and may decrease due to a state's adoption of more restrictive eligibility criteria.

55 These fifteen states include Georgia, which is characterized in this report as having frozen intake in 2018 and 2019, even though the state no longer refers to its policy as frozen intake, because in 2018 and 2019 it did not serve otherwise eligible families unless they met the state's priority criteria (families participating in TANF, children with disabilities, grandparents raising grandchildren, children with court-ordered supervision, children receiving protective services, foster children, parents ages twenty or younger, families lacking regular and adequate housing, families experiencing domestic violence, families with children participating in the state-funded prekindergarten program, families experiencing state- or federally declared natural disasters, and families with very low incomes).

56 These figures do not include waiting list totals for California or New York because they had local waiting lists and did not provide statewide waiting list totals for 2019, 2018, and/or 2001. These figures also do not include waiting list totals for Georgia because the state provided a waiting list total only for 2001, and did not provide comparable data for 2018 or 2019, when the state only served families that met its priority criteria, and turned away all other eligible families without placing them on a waiting list. Also note that for Mississippi and Minnesota, which reported the number of families—not children—on their waiting lists for 2019, 2018, and/or 2001, the National Women's Law Center estimated the number of children on each state's waiting list from the number of families based on the ratio between the number of children receiving assistance and the number of families receiving assistance in that state, calculated from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, FY 2017 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served, *available at* https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/fy-2017-preliminary-data-table-1.

57 These four states are Arizona, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

58 These three states are Colorado, Florida and Massachusetts.

59 This state is Arkansas.

60 Comparable data were not collected for 2001.

61 If a state determines its copayments based on the cost of care, this report assumes that the family had a four-year-old in a licensed center charging the state's maximum base payment rate. If a state allows localities to set their copayments within a state-specified range, the maximum of that range is used for the analysis in this report.

62 U.S. Census Bureau, Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: 2011, Detailed Tables, Table 6: Average Weekly Child Care Expenditures of Families with Employed Mothers that Make Payments, by Age Groups and Selected Characteristics: Spring 2011 (2013), *available at* http://www.census.gov/data/tables/2008/demo/2011-tables.html.

63 Child Care and Development Fund (Preamble to Final Rule), 81 Fed. Reg. 190 (September 30, 2016), *available at* https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/09/30/2016-22986/child-care-and-development-fund-program.

64 For a family of three, 150 percent of the federal poverty level was equal to an income of $31,170 in 2018 and $31,995 in 2019.

65 While families with incomes at 150 percent of poverty could not qualify for child care assistance in fifteen states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, and West Virginia) in 2018, and thirteen states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, and West Virginia) in 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue receiving assistance for at least some amount of time—and thus have copayments—up to an income eligibility limit above 150 percent of poverty in all of these states in 2018 and 2019.

66 For a family of three, 150 percent of the federal poverty level was equal to an income of $21,945 in 2001.

67 This recommendation to set payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates is in the preamble to both the previous regulations, *see* Child Care and Development Fund (Preamble to Final Rule), 63 Fed. Reg. 142 (July 24, 1998), *available at* http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-1998-07-24/pdf/98-19418.pdf, and the current regulations issued in September 2016, *see* Child Care and Development Fund (Preamble to Final Rule),

81 Fed. Reg. 190 (September 30, 2016). Under the CCDBG Act of 2014, which codified the ways in which states must set payment rates, states must set their rates using a market rate survey or alternative methodology that they have "developed and conducted (not earlier than 2 years before the date of the submission of the application containing the State plan)." Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1971, 1985-1986 (2014). Since the law also requires states to submit their plans only once every three years, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1971, 1972 (2014), the effect of the statutory language is to permit rates to be set based on a market rate survey older than two years. However, this report, as in previous years, considers rates to be current if based on a market rate survey conducted no more than two years earlier.

68 For this analysis, a state's payment rates are not considered to be at the 75th percentile of market rates if only some of its rates—for example, for certain regions, age groups, or higher-quality care—are at the 75th percentile.

69 Arkansas, Indiana, and Vermont are not counted as setting their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates in 2019, even though each of these states had some payment rates—including one or both of the rates shown in Table 4d—that were at or above the 75th percentile of 2017 or 2018 market rates, because each state also had some payment rates for other categories that fell below the 75th percentile of market rates in 2019. Mississippi and Montana are also not counted as setting their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates; as shown in Table 4d, their rates were at or above the 75th percentile of 2016 market rates, but it cannot be determined if their rates were at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates (market rates from 2017 or 2018) because data from more recent market surveys were not available for these states.

70 These thirty-four states are Alabama, Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Most of these states are included because they increased their rates for all categories of care, but a few of these states only increased certain rates. Florida is included because some of its local early learning coalitions—which set rates and determine when to update them—increased their rates. Georgia is included because it increased its rates for infant and toddler care. Vermont is included because it increased its rates for infant care. States are generally not included here if they increased only their higher rates for higher-quality care (tiered rates) and not their base rates; *see* notes 85 and 86 and accompanying text for discussion of changes in tiered rates. However, North Carolina, which increased rates only for providers with three stars or higher in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels), is included here because the state requires all providers serving families receiving child care assistance (except religious-sponsored providers and providers with a temporary license) to have a rating of three stars or higher. Differences between rates shown in Table 4d of this report and rates shown in Table 4c of the State Child Care Assistance Policies 2017 and 2018 reports for any states other than those identified in this and the following endnote are due to revisions or recalculations of the data or changes in the category for which data are reported rather than policy changes.

71 These twenty-nine states are Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Most of these states are included because they increased their rates for all categories of care, but a few of these states only increased certain rates. Florida is included because thirteen of its local early learning coalitions received approval for rate increases. Georgia is included because it increased its rates for infant and toddler care. Vermont is included because it increased its rates for infant care. North Carolina is included because it increased its rates for care for children birth through age five in eighty of the state's 100 counties and for care for children ages three through five in the remaining twenty counties. Colorado, which allows counties to set payment rates, is not included because the state did not report whether any of its counties increased their rates between 2018 and 2019.

72 This analysis is based on rates in each state's most populous city, county, or region. For states that pay higher rates for higher-quality care, this analysis uses the state's most common payment rate level (the level representing the greatest number of providers). Also note that states were asked to report the 75th percentile of market rates based on their most recent market rate survey, and most states reported data from 2017 or more recent surveys. However, five states—Arkansas, District of Columbia, Mississippi, Montana, and New York—reported data from surveys conducted before 2017. These five states are not included in the twenty-three states because their payment rates were less than 20 percent below the 75th percentile of market rates based on their outdated surveys, and thus it is not possible to calculate whether their payment rates were 20 percent or more below the 75th percentile of current market rates.

73 Arkansas, District of Columbia, Mississippi, Montana, and New York are not included in the twenty states because their payment rates were less than 20 percent below the 75th percentile of market rates based on their outdated surveys, and thus it is not possible to calculate whether their payment rates were 20 percent or more below the 75th percentile of current market rates.

74 Comparable data were not collected for 2001. However, comparable data were collected for 2000 and 2005. In each of these years, thirty-seven states permitted child care providers to charge parents the difference between the state payment rate and the provider's private fee. Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Child Care Assistance Policies 2005: States Fail to Make Up Lost Ground, Families Continue to Lack Critical Supports (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2005), 5, 18; Karen Schulman, Helen Blank, and Danielle Ewen, A Fragile Foundation: State Child Care Assistance Policies (Washington, DC: Children's Defense Fund, 2001), 103.

75 This analysis is based on tiered rates in each state's most populous city, county, or region. Within each state, the use and structure of tiered rates may vary across cities, counties, or regions.

76 Comparable data on tiered rates were not collected for 2001.

77 Rhode Island began using tiered rates between 2018 and 2019.

78 This state is Hawaii.

79 This state is Massachusetts.

80 This analysis is based on the number of different rate levels, not based on the number of quality levels. The base rate refers to the lowest rate level, regardless of whether the base level is incorporated into the state's quality rating and improvement system (for example, a base rate that is the initial one-star rate in a five-star rating system) or is not a level of the quality rating and improvement system (for example, a base rate that is the rate for providers not participating in a voluntary five-star rating system).

81 Between 2018 and 2019, five states changed how many rate levels they used. Arizona increased the number of its rate levels from two to three. The District of Columbia increased the number

of its rate levels from three to four. Iowa increased the number of its rate levels from two to four. Nevada increased the number of its rate levels from five to six. New Jersey increased the number of its rate levels from two to five.

82 Massachusetts is not included in this analysis because it does not have higher rates for higher-quality care for four-year-olds. The state's highest rate for center care for a one-year-old was 22 percent below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

83 These twenty-nine states include Florida, Hawaii, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Oklahoma, each of which determined a separate 75th percentile of market rates for child care providers at each quality level. In Florida, Hawaii, North Carolina, and Oklahoma, the payment rate at the highest quality level was lower than the 75th percentile for each of the state's quality levels. In New Mexico, the payment rate at the highest quality level was lower than the 75th percentile for the state's highest quality level, but above the 75th percentile for each of the state's four lower quality levels.

84 Massachusetts' highest rate for center care for a one-year-old was 3 percent above its lowest rate for this type of care.

85 These eight states are Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas.

86 These seven states are the District of Columbia, Iowa, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

87 *See* Draft Child Care and Development Fund Plan Preprint for Public Comment, 5.

88 National Women's Law Center, Child Care and Development Fund Plans FY 2016-2018: State Waivers and Corrective Actions.

89 This analysis is based on policies for families not connected to the TANF program. Additional states allowed families receiving or transitioning from TANF to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job.

90 Some of these states allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for three months (or the equivalent) even if they reached the end of their eligibility period before the end of that three-month period for job search, while some of these states only allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance until the end of their eligibility period, even if the parent had not yet had a full three months to search for a job; *see* Table 5 notes for more details on each state's policy.

91 States are only counted here if they increased their income limit to qualify for assistance since, as discussed above, this report focuses on the income criteria used to determine a family's eligibility when it first applies for assistance. States are not counted if they only increased their exit eligibility limit, or established a new exit eligibility limit, for families already receiving child care assistance. Connecticut, which previously did not have a separate exit eligibility limit, began allowing families already receiving assistance to continue doing so until their income reached 65 percent of state median income ($63,299 a year for a family of three) as of October 2019. (The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires states to allow families to continue receiving child care assistance until the end their twelve-month eligibility period, regardless of temporary changes in their participation in work, training, or education or changes in their income, as long as their income does not exceed 85 percent of state median income, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1978, 1979 (2014). However, in this report, a state is only considered to have an exit eligibility limit if it allows families to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income limit than the initial eligibility limit when they apply to renew their eligibility at the beginning of a new certification period.)

92 In addition, Illinois increased its exit eligibility limit from 200 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($42,660 a year for a family of three) to 225 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($48,000 a year for a family of three) as of October 2019.

93 This was Oklahoma's income limit for a family of three with two children in care; the income limit for a family receiving assistance for only one child in care was $29,100.

94 These are South Dakota's stated income limits; the state disregards 4 percent of earned income when determining eligibility.

95 In addition, Utah increased its exit eligibility limit from 70 percent of the 2018 state median income ($43,769 a year for a family of three) to 75 percent of the 2019 state median income ($48,540 a year for a family of three). Also note that these are Utah's stated entrance and exit income limits; the state deducts $100 per month for each working parent and $100 per month for all families to help cover any medical expenses when determining eligibility.

96 South Dakota disregards 4 percent of earned income when calculating copayments.

97 For states that pay tiered rates, only if the state increased its base rate (the lowest rate) is it included here, and the payment rate increase described is an increase in the base rate. Increases in tiered rates are discussed separately.

98 In addition to these fifteen states, Washington increased its base payment rates for family child care, but not for centers.

99 Connecticut also increased payment rates for licensed and license-exempt family child care as of July 2019 (retroactive to October 2018).

100 Nina Chien, Factsheet: Estimates of Child Care Eligibility and Receipt for Fiscal Year 2016 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Services Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2019), *available at* https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/262926/CY2016-Child-Care-Subsidy-Eligibility.pdf.

101 National Women's Law Center calculations based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, FY 2017 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, FY 2001 CCDF Data Tables and Charts, Table 1 - Child Care and Development Fund Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served, *available at* http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/fy2001tables1.pdf.

102 The number of related children under age six living in low-income families (families with incomes below 200 percent of poverty) was 9.7 million in 2017, compared to 9.5 million in 2001. Kayla R. Fontenot, Jessica L. Semega, and Melissa A. Kollar, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P60-263, Income and Poverty in the United States: 2017 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2018), 18, *available at* https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-263.pdf; U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2002, Detailed Poverty Table 22. Age, Gender, Household Relationship, Race and Hispanic Origin - Poverty Status of People by Selected Characteristics in 2001, *retrieved from* http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/macro/032002/pov/new22_008.htm

Table 1a: Income Eligibility Limits for a Family of Three in 2018 and 2019

State	Income limit in 2019			Income limit in 2018			Change in income limit 2018 to 2019		
	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2018 federal poverty level ($20,780 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of poverty	As percent of state median income
Alabama*	$27,012	127%	46%	$26,544	128%	46%	$468	-1%	-1%
Alaska*	$61,872	290%	74%	$61,872	298%	77%	$0	-8%	-3%
Arizona*	$34,296	161%	57%	$33,708	162%	58%	$588	-1%	-1%
Arkansas	$43,803	205%	83%	$43,803	211%	85%	$0	-5%	-2%
California*	$54,027	253%	77%	$52,076	251%	77%	$1,951	3%	0%
Colorado*	$38,443	180%	50%	$33,693	162%	45%	$4,750	18%	5%
Connecticut*	$47,270	222%	50%	$46,263	223%	50%	$1,007	-1%	0%
Delaware*	$38,448	180%	50%	$40,848	197%	54%	-$2,400	-16%	-4%
District of Columbia*	$51,050	239%	61%	$51,050	246%	63%	$0	-6%	-2%
Florida*	$31,170	146%	53%	$30,630	147%	53%	$540	-1%	0%
Georgia*	$30,745	144%	50%	$29,677	143%	50%	$1,068	1%	0%
Hawaii	$47,124	221%	60%	$47,124	227%	62%	$0	-6%	-2%
Idaho*	$27,024	127%	49%	$26,556	128%	49%	$468	-1%	0%
Illinois*	$38,448	180%	51%	$37,788	182%	52%	$660	-2%	-1%
Indiana*	$26,388	124%	41%	$25,932	125%	42%	$456	-1%	0%
Iowa*	$30,132	141%	43%	$29,616	143%	43%	$516	-1%	-1%
Kansas*	$38,448	180%	57%	$37,788	182%	57%	$660	-2%	0%
Kentucky*	$33,252	156%	55%	$32,676	157%	55%	$576	-1%	0%
Louisiana*	$34,608	162%	55%	$32,208	155%	52%	$2,400	7%	3%
Maine	$58,000	272%	85%	$56,227	271%	84%	$1,774	1%	1%
Maryland*	$60,081	282%	64%	$29,990	144%	32%	$30,091	137%	32%
Massachusetts*	$47,802	224%	50%	$46,280	223%	50%	$1,522	1%	0%
Michigan*	$26,556	125%	39%	$26,556	128%	40%	$0	-3%	-1%
Minnesota*	$39,455	185%	47%	$37,961	183%	47%	$1,494	2%	0%
Mississippi	$43,685	205%	85%	$42,999	207%	85%	$686	-2%	0%
Missouri*	$27,816	130%	43%	$27,816	134%	44%	$0	-3%	-1%
Montana*	$31,176	146%	48%	$30,240	146%	49%	$936	1%	-1%
Nebraska*	$27,012	127%	39%	$26,544	128%	39%	$468	-1%	0%
Nevada*	$27,012	127%	45%	$26,544	128%	46%	$468	-1%	-1%
New Hampshire*	$45,716	214%	52%	$44,924	216%	52%	$792	-2%	-1%
New Jersey*	$41,560	195%	44%	$40,840	197%	44%	$720	-2%	0%
New Mexico*	$41,560	195%	80%	$40,840	197%	79%	$720	-2%	1%
New York*	$41,560	195%	54%	$40,840	197%	55%	$720	-2%	-1%
North Carolina*	$40,836	191%	67%	$40,836	197%	69%	$0	-5%	-2%
North Dakota*	$46,572	218%	60%	$45,732	220%	60%	$840	-2%	0%
Ohio*	$27,014	127%	39%	$26,556	128%	40%	$458	-1%	0%
Oklahoma*	$35,100	165%	61%	$35,100	169%	63%	$0	-4%	-1%
Oregon*	$38,496	180%	58%	$37,788	182%	61%	$708	-1%	-3%
Pennsylvania*	$41,560	195%	56%	$40,840	197%	56%	$720	-2%	0%
Rhode Island*	$37,404	175%	46%	$36,756	177%	47%	$648	-2%	-1%
South Carolina*	$32,450	152%	55%	$31,122	150%	55%	$1,328	2%	0%
South Dakota*	$37,888	178%	56%	$37,225	179%	57%	$663	-2%	-1%
Tennessee*	$49,740	233%	85%	$47,856	230%	84%	$1,884	3%	1%
Texas*	$39,456-$53,472	185%-251%	63%-85%	$30,636-$51,780	147%-249%	50%-85%	$1,692-$8,820	2%-38%	0%-12%
Utah*	$37,416	175%	58%	$36,647	176%	59%	$769	-1%	-1%
Vermont*	$62,340	292%	85%	$61,260	295%	85%	$1,080	-3%	0%
Virginia*	$31,176-$51,960	146%-244%	38%-64%	$30,630-$51,060	147%-246%	38%-64%	$546-$900	-2%- -1%	0%
Washington*	$41,568	195%	54%	$40,848	197%	55%	$720	-2%	-1%
West Virginia*	$31,176	146%	53%	$30,636	147%	52%	$540	-1%	0%
Wisconsin*	$39,461	185%	53%	$37,777	182%	53%	$1,684	3%	1%
Wyoming*	$38,760	182%	55%	$38,136	184%	55%	$624	-2%	-1%

Table 1b: Income Eligibility Limits for a Family of Three in 2001 and 2019

	Income limit in 2019			Income limit in 2001			Change in income limit 2001 to 2019		
State	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2001 federal poverty level ($14,630 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of poverty	As percent of state median income
Alabama*	$27,012	127%	46%	$18,048	123%	41%	$8,964	3%	5%
Alaska*	$61,872	290%	74%	$44,328	303%	75%	$17,544	-13%	-2%
Arizona*	$34,296	161%	57%	$23,364	160%	52%	$10,932	1%	4%
Arkansas*	$43,803	205%	83%	$23,523	161%	60%	$20,280	45%	23%
California*	$54,027	253%	77%	$35,100	240%	66%	$18,927	13%	11%
Colorado*	$38,443	180%	50%	$19,020	130%	36%	$19,423	50%	14%
Connecticut*	$47,270	222%	50%	$47,586	325%	75%	-$316	-104%	-25%
Delaware*	$38,448	180%	50%	$29,260	200%	53%	$9,188	-20%	-3%
District of Columbia*	$51,050	239%	61%	$34,700	237%	66%	$16,350	2%	-5%
Florida*	$31,170	146%	53%	$20,820	142%	45%	$10,350	4%	8%
Georgia*	$30,745	144%	50%	$24,278	166%	50%	$6,467	-22%	0%
Hawaii*	$47,124	221%	60%	$46,035	315%	83%	$1,089	-94%	-23%
Idaho*	$27,024	127%	49%	$20,472	140%	51%	$6,552	-13%	-3%
Illinois*	$38,448	180%	51%	$24,243	166%	43%	$14,205	15%	8%
Indiana*	$26,388	124%	41%	$20,232	138%	41%	$6,156	-15%	0%
Iowa*	$30,132	141%	43%	$19,812	135%	41%	$10,320	6%	2%
Kansas*	$38,448	180%	57%	$27,060	185%	56%	$11,388	-5%	0%
Kentucky*	$33,252	156%	55%	$24,140	165%	55%	$9,112	-9%	0%
Louisiana*	$34,608	162%	55%	$29,040	205%	75%	$5,568	-43%	-20%
Maine	$58,000	272%	85%	$36,452	249%	75%	$21,548	23%	10%
Maryland*	$60,081	282%	64%	$25,140	172%	40%	$34,941	110%	24%
Massachusetts*	$47,802	224%	50%	$28,968	198%	48%	$18,834	26%	2%
Michigan*	$26,556	125%	39%	$26,064	178%	47%	$492	-54%	-9%
Minnesota*	$39,455	185%	47%	$42,304	289%	76%	-$2,849	-104%	-29%
Mississippi	$43,685	205%	85%	$30,999	212%	77%	$12,686	-7%	8%
Missouri*	$27,816	130%	43%	$17,784	122%	37%	$10,032	9%	5%
Montana*	$31,176	146%	48%	$21,948	150%	51%	$9,228	-4%	-3%
Nebraska*	$27,012	127%	39%	$25,260	173%	54%	$1,752	-46%	-15%
Nevada*	$27,012	127%	45%	$33,420	228%	67%	-$6,408	-102%	-22%
New Hampshire*	$45,716	214%	52%	$27,797	190%	50%	$17,919	24%	1%
New Jersey*	$41,560	195%	44%	$29,260	200%	46%	$12,300	-5%	-3%
New Mexico*	$41,560	195%	80%	$28,300	193%	75%	$13,260	1%	5%
New York*	$41,560	195%	54%	$28,644	202%	61%	$12,916	-7%	-7%
North Carolina*	$40,836	191%	67%	$32,628	223%	69%	$8,208	-32%	-2%
North Dakota*	$46,572	218%	60%	$29,556	202%	69%	$17,016	16%	-9%
Ohio*	$27,014	127%	39%	$27,066	185%	57%	-$52	-58%	-18%
Oklahoma*	$35,100	165%	61%	$29,040	198%	66%	$6,060	-34%	-5%
Oregon*	$38,496	180%	58%	$27,060	185%	60%	$11,436	-4%	-2%
Pennsylvania*	$41,560	195%	56%	$29,260	200%	58%	$12,300	-5%	-3%
Rhode Island*	$37,404	175%	46%	$32,918	225%	61%	$4,486	-50%	-15%
South Carolina*	$32,450	152%	55%	$21,225	145%	45%	$11,225	7%	10%
South Dakota*	$37,888	178%	56%	$22,826	156%	52%	$15,062	22%	4%
Tennessee*	$49,740	233%	85%	$24,324	166%	56%	$25,416	67%	29%
Texas*	$39,456-$53,472	185%-251%	63%-85%	$21,228-$36,516	145%-250%	47%-82%	$16,956-$18,228	1%-40%	3%-15%
Utah*	$37,416	175%	58%	$28,248	193%	59%	$9,168	-18%	-1%
Vermont*	$62,340	292%	85%	$31,032	212%	64%	$31,308	80%	21%
Virginia*	$31,176-$51,960	146%-244%	38%-64%	$21,948-$27,060	150%-185%	41%-50%	$9,228-$24,900	-4%-59%	-2%-14%
Washington*	$41,568	195%	54%	$32,916	225%	63%	$8,652	-30%	-9%
West Virginia*	$31,176	146%	53%	$28,296	193%	75%	$2,880	-47%	-22%
Wisconsin*	$39,461	185%	53%	$27,060	185%	51%	$12,401	0%	3%
Wyoming*	$38,760	182%	55%	$21,948	150%	47%	$16,812	32%	8%

Notes for Tables 1a and 1b: Income Eligibility Limits

The income eligibility limits shown in the tables represent the maximum income families can have when they apply for child care assistance. Some states allow families, once receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than that initial limit. These higher exit eligibility limits are reported below for states that have them. (The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires states to allow families receiving assistance to continue doing so until the end of their 12-month eligibility period, regardless of temporary changes in participation in work, training, or education or increases in income, unless their income exceeds 85 percent of state median income. However, exit eligibility limits are only reported below if they apply not solely prior to the end of the eligibility period, but also when determining whether a family can renew its eligibility for assistance at the beginning of a new certification period.)

Changes in income limits were calculated using raw data, rather than the rounded numbers shown in the table. All income limits given as dollar amounts below are annual amounts for a family of three.

State income limits were calculated in the table as a percentage of state median income using the state median income estimates reported annually in the Federal Register for use in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); these estimates are prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau based on multiple years of American Community Survey data. Some states use alternative state median income estimates as the basis for setting their income limits.

Data in the tables for 2019 reflect policies as of February 2019, data in the tables for 2018 reflect policies as of February 2018, and data in the tables for 2001 reflect policies as of June 2001, unless otherwise indicated. Certain changes in policies since February 2019 are noted below.

Alabama: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $27,756. In 2018, the exit eligibility limit was $48,792, and in 2019, it was $50,256. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $27,732 (130 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $52,416 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Alaska: The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) payment, which the majority of families in the state receive, is not counted when determining eligibility.

Arizona: 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. In 2019, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, with no time limit, if their income did not exceed $51,228. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $35,208 (165 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $53,832 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Arkansas: The income limit shown in Table 1b for 2001 takes into account a deduction of $100 per month ($1,200 per year) that was allowed for an adult household member who worked at least 30 hours per week, assuming there was one working parent. The stated income limit, in policy, was $22,323 in 2001. The state no longer used the deduction in 2018 or 2019.

California: Under policies in effect in 2001, families that had been receiving assistance as of January 1, 1998 could continue doing so until their income reached $46,800 since they were subject to higher income limits previously in effect. In 2018, statewide, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $63,235. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $65,604. As of July 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $69,626 (85 percent of state median income); the state no longer has a separate exit eligibility limit.

Colorado: Counties set their income limits to qualify for assistance within state guidelines; the amounts in the tables reflect the minimum income limits allowed by the state. In 2001, counties could allow families already receiving assistance to continue doing so up to an exit eligibility limit that was higher than the county's initial eligibility limit; the maximum allowable exit eligibility limit was $32,000. In 2018, counties with an initial eligibility limit below $37,777 were required to have a higher exit eligibility limit, while counties with an initial eligibility limit above this amount could choose whether to have a separate exit eligibility limit; the maximum allowable exit eligibility limit was $63,889. In 2019, all counties were required to set their exit eligibility limit at $65,135. As of October 2019, the minimum level at which counties could set the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $39,461 (185 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $68,218 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Connecticut: As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $48,691 (50 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate, and the state began allowing families already receiving assistance to continue doing so until their income reached $63,299 (65 percent of state median income).

Delaware: In 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $41,568. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001 or 2018. As of September 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $39,461 (185 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $42,660 (200 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

District of Columbia: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $41,640. 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 90 days after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $57,176 (70 percent of state median income). In 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so, without a time limit, until their income reached $70,754 (85 percent of state median income).

Florida: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $48,297. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $48,753. As of July 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $31,995 (150 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $50,047 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Georgia: As of March 2018, the state began allowing families already receiving assistance to continue doing so until their income reached $50,451. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $52,266. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $32,007 (50 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $54,412 (85 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Hawaii: The income limit shown in Table 1b for 2001 takes into account a 20 percent deduction of all countable income. The stated income limit, in policy, was $36,828. The state no longer used the deduction in 2018 or 2019.

Idaho: 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 $45,864 (85 percent of state median income). In 2019, families already receiving child care assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, with no time limit, if their income did not exceed $31,170. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $27,732 (130 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $32,004 (150 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Illinois: In 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $41,568. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001 or 2018. As of July 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $39,468 (185 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $42,660 (200 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $42,660, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $48,000 (225 percent of poverty). Also note that the income limit shown in Table 1b for 2001 takes into account a 10 percent earned income deduction. The stated income limit, in policy, was $21,819. The state no longer used the deduction in 2018 or 2019.

Indiana: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $53,028. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $54,312 (85 percent of state median income). As of March 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $27,084 (127 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Iowa: 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 12 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $57,336. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit for this graduated phase-out period was $58,020. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. Also note that for special needs care, the income limit to qualify for assistance was $40,840 in 2018 and $41,560 in 2019. As of July 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $30,936 (145 percent of poverty) for standard care and $42,660 (200 percent of poverty) for special needs care to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $59,868 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Kansas: 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 $55,524. In 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so, without a time limit, until their income reached was $56,376. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of April 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $39,468 (185 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $57,744 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Kentucky: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $33,696 (165 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level). In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $41,556 (200 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001.

Louisiana: 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 two months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $49,776. In 2019, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional 12 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $53,484 (85 percent of state median income). Also note that data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 15, 2000 are used instead.

Maryland: In 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $78,567 (85 percent of state median income). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001 or 2018.

Massachusetts: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $49,248. In 2018, the exit eligibility limit was $78,676, and in 2019, it was $81,264. Also note that, for special needs care, the income limit to qualify for assistance was $78,676 in 2018 and $81,264 in 2019, and the exit eligibility limit was $92,560 in 2018 and $95,605 in 2019. As of March 2019, the exit eligibility limit for special needs care is the same as the exit eligibility limit for standard care. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $50,292 (50 percent of state median income) for standard care and $85,497 (85 percent of state median income) for special needs care, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $85,497 for all families, to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Michigan: In 2018 and 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $56,460 (85 percent of state median income). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001.

Minnesota: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $54,115. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $56,244. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $41,070 (47 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $58,547 (67 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Missouri: In 2018 and 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $43,344. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of April 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $29,448 (138 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $45,876 (215 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Montana: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $37,296. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $38,448. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of August 2018, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $31,992 (150 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $39,456 (185 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Nebraska: 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 24 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $37,776. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit for this graduated phase-out period was $38,448. As of May 2019, families can continue receiving assistance up to the exit eligibility limit with no time limit. (The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001.) As of July 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $27,732 (130 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $39,456 (185 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level. Also note that, since July 2014, the state disregards 10 percent of a family's income at redetermination if the family had been continuously eligible for assistance for 12 months.

Nevada: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $49,524. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $51,120. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. For families served by contracted slots (which are mostly used for before- and after-school programs) or receiving wrap-around services (which are services provided before and after Head Start programs), as well as for families receiving child protective services, foster families, and families experiencing homelessness, the income limit to qualify for assistance was $49,524 in 2018 and $51,120 in 2019. As of October 2019, the income limit for these families to qualify for assistance was increased to $54,528 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate; for all other families, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $27,729 (130 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $54,528 to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

New Hampshire: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $51,050. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $51,950. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of July 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $46,926 (220 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $53,325 (250 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

New Jersey: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $36,575. In 2018, the exit eligibility limit was $51,050, and in 2019, it was $51,950. In 2018, the state also allowed families already receiving assistance to continue receiving it for a graduated phase-out period of 12 months if their incomes were between $51,050 and $78,616; in 2019, this graduated phase-out period applied to families with incomes between $51,950 and $79,608. As of March 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $42,660 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $53,325 (250 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the income limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $85,989 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

New Mexico: As of April 2019, the income limit was increased to $42,660 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

New York: Data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 15, 2000 are used instead. As of June 2019, the income limit was increased to $42,660 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level. Also note that a few small demonstration projects set the income limit at $52,071 in 2018 and $52,989 in 2019.

North Carolina: The income limits shown in the tables for 2018 and 2019 apply to families with children birth through age five and families with children of any age who have special needs; the income limit for families with children ages six to 13 without special needs was $27,156 in 2018 and 2019. This separate income limit for families with older children went into effect in October 2014. Also note that, 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 $49,980. In 2019, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional 12 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $49,980. As of July 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $42,660 (200 percent of poverty) for families with children birth through age five and $28,368 (133 percent of poverty) for families with children ages six to 13 to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $54,780 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

North Dakota: In 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $65,976 (85 percent of state median income). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001 or 2018.

Ohio: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $61,260. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $62,340. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $27,729 (130 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $63,990 (300 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Oklahoma: In 2018 and 2019, the income limit depended on how many children were in child care. The income limits shown in the tables assume that the family was receiving assistance for two children in care. The income limit for a family receiving assistance for only one child in care was $29,100 in 2018 and 2019. In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $47,712. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $48,708. As of March 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance (regardless of the number of children that the family has in care) was increased to $48,708 (85 percent of state median income).

Oregon: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $51,780. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $52,860. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of March 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $39,456 (185 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $58,164 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Pennsylvania: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $34,381. In 2018, the exit eligibility limit was $47,987, and in 2019, it was $48,883. As of May 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $42,660 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $50,126 (235 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Rhode Island: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $45,945. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $46,755. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of April 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $38,394 (180 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $47,993 (225 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

South Carolina: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $24,763. In 2018, the exit eligibility limit was $48,098, and in 2019, it was $50,150 (85 percent of state median income).

South Dakota: The income limits shown in the tables take into account that the state disregards 4 percent of earned income. The stated income limits, in policy, were $21,913 in 2001, $35,736 in 2018, and $36,372 (175 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level) in 2019. As of March 2019, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $44,592 (209 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level). Also note that 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 two months after their recertification, if their stated income did not exceed $54,629. In 2019, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional 12 months after their recertification, if their stated income did not exceed $57,612. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2019, the stated exit eligibility limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $59,363 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Tennessee: The income limits shown in the table for 2018 and 2019 apply to teen parents and families receiving assistance through Smart Steps—a program launched in June 2016 that serves parents who are working or pursuing postsecondary education and who are not receiving or transitioning from TANF. The income limit for other families was $34,176 in 2018 and $35,112 in 2019. Families can continue receiving assistance for up to 90 days after their recertification if their income exceeds the limit for their category of assistance. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance through Smart Steps was increased to $52,272 (85 percent of state median income), and the income limit for assistance for other families was increased to $36,900 (60 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Texas: Local workforce development boards set their income limits to qualify for assistance within state guidelines; the ranges shown in the tables indicate the lowest and highest income limits set by local boards. In addition, all local boards allowed families already receiving assistance to continue doing so up to an income of $51,780 in 2018. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit, across all local boards, was $53,472 (85 percent of state median income).

Utah: The income limits shown in the tables take into account a standard deduction of $100 per month ($1,200 per year) for each working parent, assuming there is one working parent in the family, and a standard deduction of $100 per month ($1,200 per year) for all families to help cover any medical expenses. The stated income limits, in policy, were $25,848 in 2001, $34,247 in 2018, and $35,016 (56 percent of the 2018 state median income) in 2019. Also note that in 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so up to a stated income limit of $42,804. In 2019, the stated exit eligibility limit was $43,769 (70 percent of the 2018 state median income). The stated income limit for special needs care was $51,984 in 2018 and $53,148 (85 percent of the 2018 state median income) in 2019. As of October 2019, for standard care, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $38,832 (60 percent of the 2019 state median income) and the stated exit eligibility limit was increased to $48,540 (75 percent of the 2019 state median income); for special needs care, the stated income limit was increased to $55,020 (85 percent of the 2019 state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

Vermont: 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 12 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $62,676 (85 percent of state median income). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001 or 2019. As of July 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $63,996 (300 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Virginia: The state has different income limits for different regions of the state. In 2001, the state had three separate regional income limits, which were: $21,948, $23,400, and $27,060. In 2018, the state had four separate regional income limits: $30,630, $32,672, $37,777, and $51,060. In 2019, the state also had four separate regional income limits: $31,176, $33,252, $38,448, and $51,960. Also note that in 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue do so, in all regions of the state, until their income reached $69,120 (85 percent of state median income). As of October 2019, the regional income limits to qualify for assistance were increased to $32,004 (150 percent of poverty), $34,128 (160 percent of poverty), $39,468 (185 percent of poverty), and $53,328 (250 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Washington: 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 $44,928. In 2019, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional 12 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $45,708. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of April 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $42,672 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $46,932 (220 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

West Virginia: In 2018, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $37,776. In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $38,448. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $31,992 (150 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $39,456 (185 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Wisconsin: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $29,256. In 2018, the exit eligibility limit was $40,840 (200 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level). In 2019, the exit eligibility limit was $62,886 (85 percent of state median income).

Wyoming: The income limits shown in the tables for 2018 and 2019 take into account a standard deduction of $200 per month ($2,400 per year) for each working parent, assuming there is one working parent in the family. The stated income limits, in policy, were $35,736 in 2018 and $36,360 in 2019. Also note that in 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $27,060. In 2018, the stated exit eligibility limit was $45,948 and in 2019, it was $46,752. As of April 2019, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $37,332 (175 percent of poverty), and the stated exit eligibility limit was increased to $47,988 (225 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.

Table 2: Waiting Lists for Child Care Assistance

State	Number of children or families on waiting list as of early 2019	Number of children or families on waiting list as of early 2018	Number of children or families on waiting list as of December 2001
Alabama*	No waiting list	2,351 children	5,089 children
Alaska	No waiting list	No waiting list	588 children
Arizona*	2,420 children	755 children	No waiting list
Arkansas*	370 children	2,244 children	8,000 children
California*	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level
Colorado*	376 children	1,518 children	Waiting lists at local level
Connecticut	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Delaware	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
District of Columbia*	No waiting list	No waiting list	9,124 children
Florida*	16,945 children	29,553 children	46,800 children
Georgia*	Frozen intake	Frozen intake	16,099 children
Hawaii	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Idaho	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Illinois	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Indiana*	6,290 children	12,496 children	11,958 children
Iowa	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Kansas	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Kentucky	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Louisiana*	3,596 children	4,563 children	No waiting list
Maine	No waiting list	No waiting list	2,000 children
Maryland	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Massachusetts*	18,829 children	20,202 children	18,000 children
Michigan	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Minnesota*	1,640 families	2,376 families	4,735 children
Mississippi*	No waiting list	16,103 families	10,422 children
Missouri	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Montana	No waiting list	No waiting list	Waiting lists at local level
Nebraska	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Nevada*	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
New Hampshire	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
New Jersey*	No waiting list	No waiting list	9,800 children
New Mexico*	No waiting list	2,318 children	No waiting list
New York*	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level
North Carolina*	29,201 children	50,742 children	25,363 children
North Dakota	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Ohio	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Oklahoma	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Oregon*	No waiting list	1,890 children	No waiting list
Pennsylvania*	3,886 children	9,551 children	540 children
Rhode Island	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
South Carolina	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
South Dakota	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Tennessee*	No waiting list	No waiting list	9,388 children (and frozen intake)
Texas*	16,379 children	65,444 children	36,799 children
Utah	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Vermont	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Virginia*	7,053 children	3,728 children	4,255 children
Washington	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
West Virginia	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Wisconsin	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Wyoming	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list

Notes for Table 2: Waiting Lists for Child Care Assistance

Data in the tables for 2019 reflect policies as of February 2019, and data in the tables for 2018 reflect policies as of February 2018, unless otherwise indicated.

Alabama: In 2018, when the state had a waiting list, families receiving TANF that were participating in the JOBS employment program, families that had transitioned from TANF assistance within the past six months and were employed, minor parents working toward the completion of a high school diploma or a GED, families receiving protective services, foster families, homeless families, and children participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program were served without being placed on the waiting list. Also note that data for December 2001 are not available so data from November 2001 are used instead.

Arizona: When the state has a waiting list, families receiving or transitioning from 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. As of May 2019, the state began serving all families on the waiting list and as of June 2019, the state was serving all eligible families who applied rather than placing them on the waiting list.

Arkansas: The waiting list total for 2019 is from June 2019. Families receiving TANF, families receiving Extended Support Services (which are available to certain families who lose eligibility for TANF due to earnings), foster families, and families receiving protective services are served without being placed on the waiting list.

California: The estimated number of children on the waiting list in 2001 was 280,000; estimates for 2018 and 2019 are not available. The state does not have a centralized waiting list; most local contractors and some counties maintain waiting lists.

Colorado: Waiting lists are kept at the county level, rather than at the state level. Four counties had waiting lists in 2001, but data on the total number of children on waiting lists in counties that had them are not available. In addition, four counties had frozen intake in 2001. The waiting list totals for 2018 and 2019 are the totals of reported county waiting lists. Prior to July 2019, counties had the option to allow certain groups of families to be served without being placed on the waiting list; these groups included households with incomes at or below 130 percent of poverty, teen parents, children with additional care needs, homeless families, and other groups defined by the county based on local needs. As of July 2019, counties must serve households with incomes at or below 130 percent of poverty, children with additional care needs, and homeless families without placing them on waiting lists; counties may choose to allow other groups of families to be exempt from the waiting list.

District of Columbia: The waiting list total for 2001 may have included some children living in the wider metropolitan area that encompasses parts of Maryland and Virginia.

Florida: Families receiving TANF and subject to federal work requirements and children up to age nine receiving protective services, although not statutorily exempt from the waiting list, are prioritized for child care assistance.

Georgia: As of August 2016, the state froze intake for families who did not meet priority criteria. In 2018 and 2019, the state no longer referred to its policy as frozen intake, but it only served families who met the priority criteria. Children and families that received priority for child care assistance included families participating in TANF, children with disabilities, grandparents raising grandchildren, children requiring court-ordered supervision, children receiving protective services, foster children, parents ages 20 or younger, families who lacked regular and adequate housing, families experiencing domestic violence, families with children participating in the state-funded prekindergarten program, families experiencing state- or federally declared natural disasters, and families with very low incomes (defined as families with incomes below 50 percent of poverty in February 2018, as families with incomes below 100 percent of poverty in February 2019, and as families with incomes below 50 percent of poverty as of July 2019).

Indiana: Families receiving TANF and with parents participating in the state's employment and training program or searching for a job are served without being placed on the waiting list. Also note that in 2001, in addition to the waiting list, some counties had frozen intake.

Louisiana: Families with parents participating in the TANF employment and training program, children participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program, foster children, homeless families, and children with special needs are served without being placed on the waiting list.

Massachusetts: The state does not determine children's eligibility at the time they are added to the waiting list. Also note that families receiving TANF and with parents participating in the employment services program, families referred by the child welfare agency based on open cases of abuse or neglect, siblings of children already in care, and children of actively deployed members of the military are served without being placed on the waiting list. In addition, homeless families residing in state-funded shelters may be served through dedicated contracts without being placed on the waiting list.

Minnesota: Families receiving TANF, families transitioning from TANF (for up to one year after their TANF case closes), and parents under age 21 pursuing a high school degree or GED (and not receiving TANF) are served without being placed on the waiting list.

Mississippi: In 2018, when the state had a waiting list, families receiving or transitioning from TANF, homeless children, foster children, children served by the home visiting program, children with special needs, and families with very low incomes were served without being placed on the waiting list.

Nevada: Between March 2019 and May 2019, the state placed families on a waiting list unless they were receiving or transitioning from TANF, had foster care or child protective services placements, or were homeless.

New Jersey: Data for 2001 are not available, so data from March 2002 are used instead.

New Mexico: In 2018, when the state had a waiting list, families receiving or transitioning from TANF, teen parents in school, families with children who had special needs, homeless families, and families with incomes at or below 150 percent of poverty were served without being placed on the waiting list.

New York: Waiting lists are kept at the local district level and statewide data are not available. Each local district also has the authority to freeze intake and stop adding names to its waiting list. Families receiving TANF, families eligible to receive TANF who need child care services for a child under age 13 in order to enable the parents to engage in work or participate in required work activities, and families who are transitioning off public assistance are served without being placed on the waiting list.

North Carolina: The waiting list total for 2018 is from March 2018. The waiting list total for 2019 is from January 2019. Also note that as of March 2019, the state was placing all families on the waiting list except those families receiving child protective services, children receiving protective services and removed from their home to avoid foster care placement, foster children, children experiencing homelessness, and children with special needs.

Oregon: In 2018, when the state had a waiting list, families with a parent or child who had received 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 stated that child care was needed to keep (or return) a child home, with a relative, or other known adult; families with a parent or child who was eligible or had 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 were served without being placed on the waiting list.

Pennsylvania: Families receiving or transitioning from TANF are exempt from the waiting list. In addition, the state prioritizes certain children and families for services, including foster children, children enrolled in the state prekindergarten program, Head Start, or Early Head Start who need wrap-around child care, newborn siblings of children who are already enrolled, homeless children, teen parents who are attending high school or participating in a GED program on a full-time basis, and parents ages 18 through 22 who are attending high school on a full-time basis.

Tennessee: When the state reported its data in 2001, intake was frozen for all families other than those receiving or transitioning from TANF. The waiting list total for 2001 represents the number of children on the waiting list when intake was closed.

Texas: Local workforce development boards maintain waiting lists. The totals in the table represent the aggregate number of children on waiting lists across all of the state's 28 local boards. In addition, some boards have frozen intake. In 2018, all 28 local boards had waiting lists, including 20 boards that also had frozen intake. In 2019, 20 local boards had waiting lists and 3 local boards had frozen intake. Families in the TANF work program (Choices), families transitioning from TANF, families in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training program, and children receiving protective services are served without being placed on the waiting list.

Virginia: Data for December 2001 are not available, so data from January 2001 are used instead. Families receiving or transitioning from TANF and families participating in the TANF work program are served without being placed on the waiting list.

Table 3a: Parent Copayments for a Family of Three with an Income at 150 Percent of Poverty and One Child in Care

State	Monthly copayment in 2019		Monthly copayment in 2018		Monthly copayment in 2001		Change 2018 to 2019		Change 2001 to 2019	
	As dollar amount	As percent of income	As dollar amount	As percent of income	As dollar amount	As percent of income	In dollar amount	In percent of income	In dollar amount	In percent of income
Alabama*	$132	5%	$229	9%	$215	12%	-$97	-4%	-$83	-7%
Alaska*	$156	6%	$153	6%	$71	4%	$3	0%	$85	2%
Arizona*	$65	2%	$65	3%	$217	12%	$0	0%	-$152	-9%
Arkansas*	$31	1%	$31	1%	$224	12%	$0	0%	-$193	-11%
California*	$87	3%	$64	2%	$0	0%	$23	1%	$87	3%
Colorado*	$293	11%	$286	11%	$185	10%	$7	0%	$108	1%
Connecticut*	$160	6%	$156	6%	$110	6%	$4	0%	$50	0%
Delaware*	$240	9%	$264	10%	$159	9%	-$24	-1%	$81	0%
District of Columbia*	$59	2%	$59	2%	$91	5%	$0	0%	-$32	-3%
Florida*	$195	7%	$204	8%	$104	6%	-$9	-1%	$91	2%
Georgia*	$186	7%	$208	8%	$139	8%	-$22	-1%	$47	-1%
Hawaii*	$592	22%	$518	20%	$38	2%	$74	2%	$554	20%
Idaho*	$150	6%	$150	6%	Not eligible	Not eligible	$0	0%	N/A	N/A
Illinois*	$228	9%	$224	9%	$134	7%	$4	0%	$94	1%
Indiana*	$241	9%	$235	9%	$154	8%	$6	0%	$87	1%
Iowa*	$174	7%	$185	7%	Not eligible	Not eligible	-$11	-1%	N/A	N/A
Kansas*	$207	8%	$207	8%	$162	9%	$0	0%	$45	-1%
Kentucky*	$281	11%	$281	11%	$177	10%	$0	0%	$104	1%
Louisiana*	$65	2%	$65	3%	$114	6%	$0	0%	-$49	-4%
Maine*	$240	9%	$260	10%	$183	10%	-$20	-1%	$57	-1%
Maryland*	$92	3%	$313	12%	$236	13%	-$221	-9%	-$144	-9%
Massachusetts*	$325	12%	$325	13%	$160	9%	$0	0%	$165	3%
Michigan*	$65	2%	$65	3%	$24	1%	$0	0%	$41	1%
Minnesota*	$87	3%	$87	3%	$53	3%	$0	0%	$34	0%
Mississippi*	$160	6%	$160	6%	$105	6%	$0	0%	$55	0%
Missouri*	$210	8%	$210	8%	Not eligible	Not eligible	$0	0%	N/A	N/A
Montana*	$373	14%	$364	14%	$256	14%	$9	0%	$117	0%
Nebraska*	$187	7%	$90	3%	$129	7%	$97	4%	$58	0%
Nevada*	$152	6%	$149	6%	$281	15%	$2	0%	-$129	-10%
New Hampshire*	$333	12%	$325	12%	$2	0%	$9	0%	$331	12%
New Jersey*	$106	4%	$106	4%	$133	7%	$0	0%	-$27	-3%
New Mexico*	$186	7%	$175	7%	$115	6%	$11	0%	$71	1%
New York*	$327	12%	$314	12%	$191	10%	$13	0%	$136	2%
North Carolina*	$267	10%	$260	10%	$159	9%	$7	0%	$108	1%
North Dakota*	$227	9%	$223	9%	$293	16%	$4	0%	-$66	-8%
Ohio*	$235	9%	$226	9%	$88	5%	$8	0%	$147	4%
Oklahoma*	$239	9%	$239	9%	$146	8%	$0	0%	$93	1%
Oregon*	$523	20%	$491	19%	$319	17%	$32	1%	$204	2%
Pennsylvania*	$230	9%	$229	9%	$152	8%	$1	0%	$78	0%
Rhode Island*	$213	8%	$208	8%	$19	1%	$6	0%	$194	7%
South Carolina*	$48	2%	$61	2%	$77	4%	-$13	-1%	-$29	-2%
South Dakota*	$0	0%	$349	13%	$365	20%	-$349	-13%	-$365	-20%
Tennessee*	$186	7%	$186	7%	$112	6%	$0	0%	$74	1%
Texas*	$270	10%	$270	10%	$256	14%	$0	0%	$14	-4%
Utah*	$175	7%	$171	7%	$220	12%	$4	0%	-$45	-5%
Vermont*	$260	10%	$260	10%	$123	7%	$0	0%	$137	3%
Virginia*	$213	8%	$207	8%	$183	10%	$6	0%	$30	-2%
Washington*	$207	8%	$193	7%	$87	5%	$14	0%	$120	3%
West Virginia*	$124	5%	$119	5%	$54	3%	$5	0%	$70	2%
Wisconsin*	$251	9%	$252	10%	$160	9%	-$1	0%	$91	1%
Wyoming*	$38	1%	$43	2%	$98	5%	-$5	0%	-$60	-4%

Table 3b: Parent Copayments for a Family of Three with an Income at 100 Percent of Poverty and One Child in Care

State	Monthly copayment in 2019		Monthly copayment in 2018		Monthly copayment in 2001		Change 2018 to 2019		Change 2001 to 2019	
	As dollar amount	As percent of income	As dollar amount	As percent of income	As dollar amount	As percent of income	In dollar amount	In percent of income	In dollar amount	In percent of income
Alabama*	$78	4%	$78	5%	$65	5%	$0	0%	$13	-1%
Alaska*	$53	3%	$51	3%	$14	1%	$2	0%	$39	2%
Arizona*	$65	4%	$65	4%	$65	5%	$0	0%	$0	-2%
Arkansas*	$31	2%	$31	2%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$31	2%
California*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%
Colorado*	$36	2%	$35	2%	$113	9%	$1	0%	-$77	-7%
Connecticut*	$71	4%	$69	4%	$49	4%	$2	0%	$22	0%
Delaware*	$72	4%	$120	7%	$55	5%	-$48	-3%	$17	0%
District of Columbia*	$22	1%	$22	1%	$32	3%	$0	0%	-$10	-1%
Florida*	$123	7%	$129	7%	$69	6%	-$5	0%	$54	1%
Georgia*	$121	7%	$143	8%	$21	2%	-$22	-1%	$100	5%
Hawaii*	$296	17%	$296	17%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$296	17%
Idaho*	$50	3%	$50	3%	$65	5%	$0	0%	-$15	-3%
Illinois*	$89	5%	$88	5%	$65	5%	$1	0%	$24	0%
Indiana*	$89	5%	$87	5%	$0	0%	$2	0%	$89	5%
Iowa*	$9	0%	$9	1%	$22	2%	$0	0%	-$13	-1%
Kansas*	$58	3%	$58	3%	$22	2%	$0	0%	$36	1%
Kentucky*	$152	9%	$152	9%	$97	8%	$0	0%	$55	1%
Louisiana*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$49	4%	$0	0%	-$49	-4%
Maine*	$107	6%	$139	8%	$97	8%	-$32	-2%	$10	-2%
Maryland*	$24	1%	$281	16%	$90	7%	-$257	-15%	-$66	-6%
Massachusetts*	$173	10%	$162	9%	$40	3%	$11	0%	$133	6%
Michigan*	$32	2%	$32	2%	$24	2%	$0	0%	$8	0%
Minnesota*	$52	3%	$50	3%	$5	0%	$2	0%	$47	3%
Mississippi*	$92	5%	$88	5%	$47	4%	$4	0%	$45	1%
Missouri*	$108	6%	$108	6%	$43	4%	$0	0%	$65	3%
Montana*	$71	4%	$69	4%	$49	4%	$2	0%	$22	0%
Nebraska*	$124	7%	$61	4%	$30	2%	$63	3%	$94	5%
Nevada*	$51	3%	$50	3%	$0	0%	$1	0%	$51	3%
New Hampshire*	$133	7%	$130	7%	$0	0%	$3	0%	$133	7%
New Jersey*	$77	4%	$77	4%	$71	6%	$0	0%	$6	-2%
New Mexico*	$81	5%	$78	5%	$47	4%	$3	0%	$34	1%
New York*	$16	1%	$11	1%	$4	0%	$5	0%	$12	1%
North Carolina*	$178	10%	$173	10%	$106	9%	$5	0%	$72	1%
North Dakota*	$78	4%	$77	4%	$158	13%	$1	0%	-$80	-9%
Ohio*	$127	7%	$123	7%	$43	4%	$4	0%	$84	4%
Oklahoma*	$146	8%	$146	8%	$54	4%	$0	0%	$92	4%
Oregon*	$202	11%	$188	11%	$90	7%	$14	1%	$112	4%
Pennsylvania*	$134	8%	$134	8%	$65	5%	$0	0%	$69	2%
Rhode Island*	$36	2%	$35	2%	$0	0%	$1	0%	$36	2%
South Carolina*	$26	1%	$26	2%	$43	4%	$0	0%	-$17	-2%
South Dakota*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%
Tennessee*	$126	7%	$121	7%	$39	3%	$4	0%	$87	4%
Texas*	$170	10%	$170	10%	$170	14%	$0	0%	$0	-4%
Utah*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$36	3%	$0	0%	-$36	-3%
Vermont*	$6	0%	$6	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$6	0%
Virginia*	$106	6%	$103	6%	$122	10%	$3	0%	-$16	-4%
Washington*	$65	4%	$65	4%	$20	2%	$0	0%	$45	2%
West Virginia*	$81	5%	$81	5%	$27	2%	$0	0%	$54	2%
Wisconsin*	$120	7%	$120	7%	$61	5%	$0	0%	$59	2%
Wyoming*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$10	1%	$0	0%	-$10	-1%

Notes for Tables 3a and 3b: Parent Copayments

For a family of three, an income at 100 percent of poverty was equal to $14,630 a year in 2001, $20,780 a year in 2018, and $21,330 a year in 2019.

For a family of three, an income at 150 percent of poverty was equal to $21,945 a year in 2001, $31,170 a year in 2018, and $31,995 a year in 2019.

For states that calculate their copayments as a percentage of the cost of care, it is assumed that the family was purchasing care at the state's maximum base payment rate for licensed center care for a four-year-old.

Monthly copayments were calculated from hourly, daily, and weekly copayments assuming the child was in care 9 hours a day, 5 days a week, 4.33 weeks a month.

Copayments for states with standard income deductions were determined based on adjusted income.

Changes in copayments were calculated using raw data, rather than the rounded numbers shown in the table.

Data in the tables for 2019 reflect policies as of February 2019, data in the tables for 2018 reflect policies as of February 2018, and data in the tables for 2001 reflect policies as of June 2001, unless otherwise indicated.

Alabama: Children receiving protective services and foster children are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 30 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($6,132 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($20,420 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Alaska: Families applying for or receiving TANF, children receiving protective services, and foster children are exempt from copayments.

Arizona: Families receiving TANF and children receiving protective services are exempt from copayments.

Arkansas: As of March 2014, the copayment varies with the quality level of the care a family uses, with a family paying 6 percent of the cost of care if using a provider with a one-star rating in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has three star levels), 4 percent if using a two-star provider, and 2 percent if using a three-star provider. The copayment amounts for 2018 and 2019 shown in the tables assume the family is using a one-star provider, given that, as of January 2016, all providers serving families receiving child care assistance must be at the one-star level or higher. Also note that families receiving TANF, families in their first year of transitioning from TANF, foster children, and children receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 40 percent of the 2018 state median income ($20,613 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018 and 2019.

California: Families receiving TANF and families whose children are participating in the state-funded part-day prekindergarten program are exempt from copayments. Families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments for up to 12 months. In addition, families with incomes up to 39 percent of the 2015 state median income ($29,016 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes up to 39 percent of the 2016 state median income ($30,096 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Colorado: Families receiving TANF and with parents enrolled in activities other than paid employment, families receiving child welfare child care, and parents without income are exempt from copayments. Homeless families do not have copayments during a 60-day stabilization period. Teen parents may have their copayment waived if it produces a hardship. As of September 2018, counties have the option to waive copayments for families with children dually enrolled in a Head Start or Early Head Start program.

Connecticut: Families receiving TANF and with parents participating in an approved training or education activity (but not working) and foster children are exempt from copayments.

Delaware: Families receiving TANF, grandparents who are caretakers, foster parents, and families referred from the Division of Family Services are exempt from copayments. In addition, in 2019, families with incomes below 70 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level ($14,548 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments.

District of Columbia: Families receiving TANF with recipients or payees participating in countable activities or with parents/guardians who have physical or mental disabilities, children receiving protective services, foster children, parents in junior or senior high school, and homeless children are exempt from copayments. In addition, in 2018 and 2019, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($20,420 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments.

Florida: Local early learning coalitions set their copayments, subject to state approval; the copayments in the tables reflect the maximum copayment levels allowed under state policy and used by a local coalition. Also note that a coalition may, on a case-by-case basis, waive the copayment for an at-risk child or temporarily waive the copayment for a family whose income is at or below the federal poverty level and who experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the parent is participating in parenting classes.

Georgia: As of July 2018, the state began discounting copayments by 15 percent for families across the state using providers with ratings of one star or higher in the state's quality rating and improvement system, which has three star levels. (This statewide policy replaced a pilot project that had operated in four areas of the state since July 2015. Under the pilot project, families in those areas using providers with ratings of one star or higher had lower copayments than families using providers that were not rated; the copayment was $15 per week ($65 per month) for families using one-star providers, $10 per week ($43 per month) for families using two-star providers, and $5 per week ($22 per month) for families using three-star providers, regardless of the family's income level.) Also note that families applying for or receiving TANF, foster children, and parents under age 18 are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below $3,600 per year, regardless of family size, were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes below 10 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level ($2,078 per year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Hawaii: Families receiving protective services and foster children are exempt from copayments. In 2018 and 2019, families with incomes at or below 50 percent of the 2004 federal poverty level for Hawaii ($9,012 a year for a family of three) were also exempt from copayments.

Idaho: Families receiving TANF that are participating in activities other than work and foster children are exempt from copayments.

Illinois: Representative payees of children who are receiving TANF or general assistance benefits, who are not parents or stepparents, and who work outside the home are exempt from copayments. In addition, households in which a single parent is called to active duty or both parents are called to active duty at the same time are exempt from copayments during deployment; active duty does not include routine, one-weekend-per-month reserve duty. Families experiencing homelessness can receive two 90-day periods of child care assistance with a copayment of $1 per month under a policy that went into effect as of January 2018. Families transitioning from the Department of Children and Family Services' Intact Family program can receive 6 months of child care assistance with a copayment of $1 per month under a policy that went into effect as of June 2019.

Indiana: Copayments vary depending on how long the family has been receiving child care assistance, with families paying a higher percentage of income the longer they receive assistance. The copayments shown in the tables assume it is the first year the family is receiving assistance. Also note that families with incomes 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, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Iowa: The state calculates copayments based on units of care; a unit is a half day (up to 5 hours of service per 24-hour period), so 9 hours of care a day, 5 days a week, 4.33 weeks a month would equal 44 units. Also note that families receiving TANF and families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($20,420 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Kansas: Families receiving TANF, families in the first two months following the loss of TANF eligibility, parents participating in the Food Assistance Education and Training work program, families receiving child care for social service reasons, and families participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 70 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($14,292 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes at or below 70 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level ($14,544 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Kentucky: Families needing child care for reasons of child protection or permanent placement are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below $899 per month ($10,788 a year), regardless of family size, were exempt from copayments in 2018 and 2019.

Louisiana: Data are not available for June 2001, so data from March 2000 are used instead. Also note that families receiving TANF, foster children, homeless families, and families participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program are exempt from copayments.

Maine: Copayments for foster children and children living with a legal guardian are based on the child's income only.

Maryland: The state determines copayments based on maximum state payment rates in the region where the family lives. Also note that families receiving TANF or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits are exempt from copayments.

Massachusetts: Families receiving or transitioning from TANF, foster parents, guardians, caretakers, and families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families at the lowest income levels (in 2018 and 2019, $14,160 a year for a family of three) are exempt from copayments.

Michigan: Children attending a program with a three-, four-, or five-star rating in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels), families receiving TANF, children receiving protective services, foster children, families receiving SSI benefits, migrant farmworker families, and homeless families are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($20,420 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018 and 2019.

Minnesota: Families with incomes below 75 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($15,315 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes below 75 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level ($15,585 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Mississippi: Families receiving TANF and homeless families with no countable income are exempt from copayments. Children receiving protective services, children participating in the home visitation program, children with special needs, and parents with a disability who are receiving SSI benefits have a copayment of $10 per month.

Missouri: Children with disabilities who are receiving SSI benefits, children receiving services through the Department of Mental Health, children with developmental delays, foster children, adoptive children, children under court-ordered supervision, and homeless families are exempt from copayments.

Montana: Children receiving protective services are exempt from copayments.

Nebraska: Foster children and children who have subsidized adoption or guardianship agreements are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($20,420 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2019. Also note that after a family has had one year of continuous eligibility, 10 percent is deducted from the family's gross income in calculating the copayment.

Nevada: Families receiving TANF and with parents participating in work or work-related activities, families receiving protective services, foster families, homeless families, and families receiving wrap-around services (services provided before and after Head Start programs) are exempt from copayments.

New Hampshire: Foster children may be exempted from copayments on a case-by-case basis. 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.

New Jersey: For children who are in paid foster placement, the copayment is assessed based on the income of the child, and thus almost always $0. For children who are receiving protective services and residing with a related caregiver, para-foster care provider, or in their own home with their parents, the copayment may be reduced or waived on a case-by-case basis. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($20,420 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2019.

New Mexico: Grandparents or legal guardians who have taken custody/guardianship of a child and families receiving protective services and at-risk child care are exempt from copayments.

New York: Local social services districts set their copayments within a state-specified range; the copayments in the tables reflect the maximum amounts allowed in that range. Families receiving TANF and participating in their required activity and homeless families are exempt from copayments. In addition, children receiving protective services, foster children, families receiving services to address domestic violence, and families participating in substance abuse treatment programs may be exempted from copayments on a case-by-case basis. Also note that data are not available for June 2001, so data from March 2000 are used instead.

North Carolina: Children receiving protective services or child welfare services, foster families, and children with no income who reside in the home of an adult other than their parents, stepparents, or nonparent relative caretaker are exempt from copayments.

North Dakota: Families receiving services through the Crossroads program (which provides support to parents up to age 21 so they can continue their education), families receiving TANF, and families receiving Diversion Assistance (short-term benefits and services) are exempt from copayments.

Ohio: Homeless families without a qualifying activity and families receiving protective child care services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes 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, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Oklahoma: Families receiving TANF, foster children, children under age six adopted through the foster care system, families headed by a caretaker who is not legally or financially responsible for the children, children receiving SSI benefits, and children participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program are exempt from copayments. Children receiving protective services may be exempted from copayments on a case-by-case basis. In addition, families with incomes at or below $850 per month ($10,200 a year), regardless of family size, were exempt from copayments in 2018 and 2019. The state reduced copayments for families as of March 2019.

Oregon: 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.

Pennsylvania: Families receiving either TANF or SNAP and with parents who are not working, but who are participating in employment and training programs, are exempt from copayments.

Rhode Island: Foster children, homeless families, and families receiving TANF who have child care assistance as a supportive service are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($20,420 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2019.

South Carolina: Families receiving TANF, foster children, homeless families, and dual language learners are exempt from copayments.

South Dakota: Families receiving TANF and children in protective custody are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with adjusted incomes 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, and families with adjusted incomes at or below 150 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2019. As of March 2019, families with adjusted incomes below 160 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($34,140 a year for a family of three) are exempt from copayments. The state also reduced copayments for other families as of March 2019.

Tennessee: Families receiving TANF and foster families are exempt from copayments.

Texas: Local workforce development boards set their copayments within state guidelines; the copayments in the tables reflect the maximum copayment levels used by a local board. Also note that parents participating in the TANF work program (Choices), families applying for TANF, families transitioning from TANF, families participating in the SNAP Employment and Training program, children receiving protective services, and homeless families are exempt from copayments.

Utah: Families receiving TANF are exempt from copayments, and families transitioning from TANF are exempt from copayments for up to six months. In addition, families with adjusted incomes 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 and families with adjusted incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Vermont: Children who are in protective custody are exempt from copayments.

Virginia: Families eligible for TANF and families enrolled in Head Start, or participating in the SNAP Employment and Training program, whose income is at or below the federal poverty level are exempt from copayments.

Washington: Homeless families who cannot document participation in approved activities can have their copayment waived for four months. As of October 2018, children who are receiving protective services, child welfare services, or family assessment response services and who have been referred for child care assistance as a part of their case management are exempt from copayments.

West Virginia: Foster families and families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 40 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($8,172 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2018, and families with incomes at or below 40 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level ($8,316 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Wisconsin: Families with court-ordered kinship or guardianship care, foster families, and teen parents attending high school are exempt from copayments.

Wyoming: Families with adjusted incomes 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, and families with adjusted incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2019.

Table 4a: State Payment Rates in 2019

State	State payment rates in 2019 compared to market rates	Year when payment rates last changed	If state rate is lower than rate provider charges, is provider allowed to charge parents the difference?
Alabama*	70th percentile of 2017 rates	2018	Yes
Alaska	15th percentile of 2015 rates	2017	Yes
Arizona*	75th percentile of 2000 rates	2009/2018	Yes
Arkansas*	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2015 rates	2014	Yes, for 2- and 3-star
California*	75th percentile of 2016 rates	2018	Yes
Colorado*	Locally determined	Varies by locality	No
Connecticut*	1st-86th percentile of 2015 rates	2015/2017	Yes
Delaware*	50th percentile of 2018 rates	2011/2014	Yes
District of Columbia*	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2012 rates	2018	No
Florida*	Locally determined	Varies by locality	Yes
Georgia*	5th-30th percentile of 2017 rates	2006/2018	Yes
Hawaii*	75th percentile of 2016 rates	2008/2010/2017	Yes
Idaho*	65th percentile of 2018 rates	2019	Yes
Illinois*	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2018 rates	2018	Yes
Indiana*	61st percentile of 2015 rates	2014/2015/2016	Yes
Iowa*	45th-75th percentile of 2017 rates	2019	No
Kansas*	65th percentile of 2017 rates	2018	Yes
Kentucky*	40th percentile of 2017 rates	2018	Yes
Louisiana*	22nd percentile of 2018 rates	2016	Yes
Maine*	75th percentile of 2018 rates	2018	No
Maryland*	At least the 20th percentile of 2017 rates	2018	Yes
Massachusetts*	10th-84th percentile of 2018 rates	2019	No
Michigan	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2015 rates	2017	Yes
Minnesota*	25th percentile of 2011 rates	2014	Yes
Mississippi*	75th percentile of 2016 rates	2018	Yes
Missouri*	51st-81st percentile of 2016 rates	2016	Yes
Montana*	75th percentile of 2016 rates	2018	Yes
Nebraska*	At least the 60th percentile of 2018 rates	2018	No
Nevada*	75th percentile of 2004 rates	2004/2016/2019	Yes
New Hampshire	50th percentile of 2016 rates	2017	Yes
New Jersey*	Below the 75th percentile of 2017 rates	2014/2019	Yes
New Mexico*	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2015 rates	2014/2015	No
New York*	69th percentile of 2015 rates	2016	Yes
North Carolina*	75th or 100th percentile of 2015 rates	2017/2018	Yes
North Dakota*	75th percentile of 2017 rates	2018	Yes
Ohio*	15th-35th percentile of 2016 rates	2011/2016	No
Oklahoma*	47th-76th percentile of 2017 rates	2013/2018	No
Oregon*	63rd-90th percentile of 2018 rates	2019	Yes
Pennsylvania*	0th-100th percentile of 2018 rates	2018	Yes
Rhode Island*	Below the 75th percentile of 2018 rates	2019	No
South Carolina*	75th percentile of 2017 rates	2018	Yes
South Dakota*	75th percentile of 2017 rates	2018	Yes
Tennessee*	11th-65th percentile of 2017-18 rates	2008	Yes
Texas*	Varies by locality	2018	Yes
Utah*	60th percentile of 2017 rates	2018	Yes
Vermont*	1st-89th percentile of 2017 rates	2013/2019	Yes
Virginia*	70th percentile of 2018 rates	2018	Yes
Washington*	17th-100th percentile of 2018 rates	2017/2019	No
West Virginia	75th percentile of 2015 rates	2016	No
Wisconsin*	25th percentile of 2017 rates	2019	Yes
Wyoming*	11th-53rd percentile of 2015 rates	2012	Yes

Table 4b: State Payment Rates Compared to the 75th Percentile of Current Market Rates in 2019, 2018, and 2001

	Rates equal to or above the 75th percentile of current market rates....		
State	In 2019?	In 2018?	In 2001?
Alabama	No	No	Yes
Alaska	No	No	No
Arizona	No	No	No
Arkansas	No	No	Yes
California	No	Yes	Yes
Colorado*	No	No	Yes
Connecticut*	No	No	No
Delaware	No	No	No
District of Columbia	No	No	No
Florida*	No	No	Yes
Georgia	No	No	No
Hawaii	No	No	No
Idaho	No	No	Yes
Illinois*	No	No	No
Indiana	No	No	Yes
Iowa*	No	No	No
Kansas	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	No	Yes
Louisiana	No	No	Yes
Maine*	Yes	No	Yes
Maryland	No	No	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	No
Michigan	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	Yes
Mississippi	No	No	Yes
Missouri	No	No	No
Montana	No	No	No
Nebraska	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	Yes
New Hampshire	No	No	No
New Jersey*	No	No	No
New Mexico	No	No	No
New York	No	No	Yes
North Carolina*	No	No	No
North Dakota*	Yes	No	Yes
Ohio	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No	No
Oregon*	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	Yes
South Carolina*	Yes	No	No
South Dakota*	Yes	No	Yes
Tennessee	No	No	No
Texas*	No	No	Yes
Utah	No	No	No
Vermont*	No	No	No
Virginia	No	No	No
Washington	No	No	No
West Virginia*	No	No	Yes
Wisconsin	No	No	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	Yes

Table 4c: Change in State Base Payment Rates Between 2018 and 2019

		Center care for a four-year-old			Center care for a one-year-old		
State	City/county/region	Monthly state base payment rate in 2018	Monthly state base payment rate in 2019	Change in base payment rate 2018 to 2019	Monthly state base payment rate in 2018	Monthly state base payment rate in 2019	Change in base payment rate 2018 to 2019
Alabama*	Birmingham Region	$468	$580	$112	$511	$615	$104
Alaska	Anchorage	$700	$700	$0	$900	$900	$0
Arizona*	Maricopa County (Phoenix)	$515	$515	$0	$576	$576	$0
Arkansas	Urban Areas	$511	$511	$0	$618	$618	$0
California	Los Angeles County	$1,124	$1,124	$0	$1,594	$1,594	$0
Colorado*	Denver County	$682	$682	$0	$963	$963	$0
Connecticut*	North Central	$693	$693	$0	$870	$870	$0
Delaware*	New Castle County	$574	$574	$0	$622	$622	$0
District of Columbia*	Citywide	$632	$1,058	$426	$1,054	$1,417	$363
Florida*	Miami-Dade County	$482	$482	$0	$533	$533	$0
Georgia*	Zone 1	$494	$494	$0	$559	$624	$65
Hawaii	Statewide	$740	$740	$0	$1,490	$1,490	$0
Idaho*	Cluster 2 (Boise)	$623	$650	$27	$684	$726	$42
Illinois*	Metropolitan Region	$708	$738	$30	$1,007	$1,049	$43
Indiana	Marion County (Indianapolis)	$762	$762	$0	$905	$905	$0
Iowa*	Statewide	$595	$649	$54	$738	$748	$10
Kansas*	Sedgwick County	$526	$571	$45	$694	$740	$47
Kentucky*	Jefferson County	$476	$541	$65	$541	$606	$65
Louisiana	Statewide	$465	$465	$0	$487	$487	$0
Maine*	Cumberland County	$909	$1,121	$212	$1,057	$1,312	$255
Maryland*	Region W	$559	$628	$69	$883	$953	$69
Massachusetts*	Northeast (Region 3)	$913	$955	$42	$1,407	$1,472	$65
Michigan	Statewide	$536	$536	$0	$779	$779	$0
Minnesota	Hennepin County	$870	$870	$0	$1,160	$1,160	$0
Mississippi*	Statewide	$312	$440	$128	$339	$480	$141
Missouri*	St. Louis	$406	$406	$0	$695	$695	$0
Montana*	Statewide	$662	$758	$96	$758	$866	$108
Nebraska*	Urban Counties	$801	$812	$11	$927	$931	$4
Nevada*	Clark County	$498	$498	$0	$606	$606	$0
New Hampshire	Statewide	$801	$801	$0	$963	$963	$0
New Jersey*	Statewide	$579	$645	$66	$716	$904	$188
New Mexico	Statewide	$491	$491	$0	$721	$721	$0
New York*	New York City	$1,048	$1,048	$0	$1,606	$1,606	$0
North Carolina*	Mecklenburg County	$721	$881	$160	$963	$963	$0
North Dakota*	Statewide	$600	$720	$120	$724	$790	$66
Ohio*	Franklin County	$637	$637	$0	$851	$851	$0
Oklahoma*	Statewide	$292	$292	$0	$336	$336	$0
Oregon*	Group Area A (Portland)	$965	$1,060	$95	$1,255	$1,415	$160
Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia	$707	$725	$18	$880	$902	$22
Rhode Island*	Statewide	$700	$718	$17	$838	$859	$21
South Carolina*	Urban Areas	$563	$701	$138	$628	$801	$173
South Dakota*	Minnehaha County	$692	$701	$9	$770	$790	$20
Tennessee*	Top Tier Counties	$429	$429	$0	$572	$572	$0
Texas*	Gulf Coast Area	$507	$517	$10	$713	$727	$14
Utah*	Statewide	$568	$585	$17	$758	$800	$42
Vermont*	Statewide	$578	$578	$0	$651	$866	$215
Virginia*	Fairfax County	$1,147	$1,516	$368	$1,364	$1,775	$411
Washington*	King County	$835	$1,203	$368	$957	$1,290	$333
West Virginia	Statewide	$606	$606	$0	$693	$693	$0
Wisconsin*	Milwaukee County	$789	$865	$76	$1,016	$1,169	$153
Wyoming*	Statewide	$521	$521	$0	$573	$573	$0

Table 4d: State Payment Amount in 2019 Compared to Market Rates for Child Care Centers

		Center care for a four-year-old					Center care for a one-year-old				
State	City/county/ region	Monthly state payment rate	75th percentile of market rates	Year of market rates	Difference between state rate and 75th percentile	Percentage difference between state rate and 75th percentile	Monthly state payment rate	75th percentile of market rates	Year of market rates	Difference between state rate and 75th percentile	Percentage difference between state rate and 75th percentile
Alabama*	Birmingham Region	$580	$745	2017	-$165	-22%	$615	$836	2017	-$221	-26%
Alaska	Anchorage	$700	$923	2017	-$223	-24%	$900	$1,006	2017	-$106	-11%
Arizona*	Maricopa County (Phoenix)	$515	$883	2018	-$368	-42%	$576	$999	2018	-$423	-42%
Arkansas	Urban Areas	$511	$520	2015	-$9	-2%	$618	$615	2015	$3	1%
California	Los Angeles County	$1,124	$1,253	2018	-$129	-10%	$1,594	$1,688	2018	-$94	-6%
Colorado*	Denver County	$990	$1,170	2017	-$180	-15%	$1,407	$1,699	2017	-$291	-17%
Connecticut*	North Central	$693	$1,225	2018	-$533	-43%	$870	$1,477	2018	-$606	-41%
Delaware*	New Castle County	$883	$1,003	2018	-$120	-12%	$958	$1,299	2018	-$341	-26%
District of Columbia*	Citywide	$1,235	$1,409	2012	-$174	-12%	$1,662	$1,829	2012	-$167	-9%
Florida*	Miami-Dade County	$482	$585	2017	-$103	-18%	$533	$650	2017	-$116	-18%
Georgia*	Zone 1	$494	$884	2017	-$390	-44%	$624	$996	2017	-$372	-37%
Hawaii*	Statewide	$740	$925	2018	-$185	-20%	$1,490	$1,733	2018	-$243	-14%
Idaho*	Cluster 2 (Boise)	$650	$700	2018	-$50	-7%	$726	$782	2018	-$56	-7%
Illinois*	Metropolitan Region	$738	$1,156	2018	-$418	-36%	$1,049	$1,360	2018	-$310	-23%
Indiana	Marion County (Indianapolis)	$1,065	$974	2017	$91	9%	$1,269	$1,104	2017	$165	15%
Iowa*	Statewide	$649	$822	2017	-$173	-21%	$748	$964	2017	-$216	-22%
Kansas*	Sedgwick County	$571	$624	2017	-$53	-8%	$740	$756	2017	-$16	-2%
Kentucky*	Jefferson County	$564	$675	2017	-$111	-16%	$631	$758	2017	-$127	-17%
Louisiana	Statewide	$465	$650	2017	-$184	-28%	$487	$714	2017	-$227	-32%
Maine*	Cumberland County	$1,121	$1,121	2018	$0	0%	$1,312	$1,312	2018	$0	0%
Maryland*	Region W	$628	$888	2017	-$260	-29%	$953	$1,299	2017	-$346	-27%
Massachusetts*	Northeast (Region 3)	$955	$1,450	2018	-$495	-34%	$1,472	$1,940	2018	-$468	-24%
Michigan	Statewide	$682	$1,023	2017	-$341	-33%	$926	$1,169	2017	-$244	-21%
Minnesota	Hennepin County	$1,044	$1,325	2018	-$281	-21%	$1,393	$1,723	2018	-$331	-19%
Mississippi*	Statewide	$440	$440	2016	$0	0%	$480	$480	2016	$0	0%
Missouri*	St. Louis	$406	$1,083	2018	-$677	-62%	$695	$1,408	2018	-$713	-51%
Montana*	Statewide	$796	$758	2016	$38	5%	$909	$866	2016	$43	5%
Nebraska*	Urban Counties	$812	$877	2017	-$65	-7%	$931	$958	2017	-$27	-3%
Nevada*	Clark County	$801	$932	2018	-$131	-14%	$844	$1,144	2018	-$300	-26%
New Hampshire	Statewide	$801	$953	2018	-$152	-16%	$963	$1,180	2018	-$217	-18%
New Jersey*	Statewide	$645	$1,055	2017	-$410	-39%	$904	$1,300	2017	-$396	-30%
New Mexico*	Statewide	$491	$753	2018	-$262	-35%	$721	$774	2018	-$53	-7%
New York*	New York City	$1,048	$1,117	2015	-$69	-6%	$1,606	$1,650	2015	-$43	-3%
North Carolina*	Mecklenburg County	$1,035	$1,153	2017	-$118	-10%	$1,194	$1,278	2017	-$84	-7%
North Dakota*	Statewide	$720	$720	2017	$0	0%	$790	$790	2017	$0	0%
Ohio*	Franklin County	$637	$974	2018	-$337	-35%	$851	$1,234	2018	-$383	-31%
Oklahoma*	Statewide	$494	$606	2017	-$112	-18%	$727	$801	2017	-$74	-9%
Oregon*	Group Area A (Portland)	$1,060	$1,100	2018	-$40	-4%	$1,415	$1,455	2018	-$40	-3%
Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia	$725	$844	2018	-$119	-14%	$902	$996	2018	-$94	-9%
Rhode Island*	Statewide	$718	$996	2018	-$278	-28%	$859	$1,142	2018	-$282	-25%
South Carolina*	Urban Areas	$723	$700	2017	$24	3%	$823	$801	2017	$22	3%
South Dakota*	Minnehaha County	$701	$701	2017	$0	0%	$790	$790	2017	$0	0%
Tennessee*	Top Tier Counties	$515	$742	2017-18	-$227	-31%	$684	$875	2017-18	-$191	-22%
Texas*	Gulf Coast Area	$517	$742	2018	-$225	-30%	$727	$884	2018	-$157	-18%
Utah*	Statewide	$585	$645	2017	-$60	-9%	$800	$900	2017	-$100	-11%
Vermont*	Statewide	$809	$1,083	2017	-$273	-25%	$1,212	$1,126	2017	$87	8%
Virginia*	Fairfax County	$1,516	$1,559	2018	-$43	-3%	$1,775	$1,819	2018	-$43	-2%
Washington*	King County	$1,251	$1,495	2018	-$244	-16%	$1,342	$1,720	2018	-$378	-22%
West Virginia	Statewide	$606	$650	2017	-$43	-7%	$693	$747	2017	-$54	-7%
Wisconsin*	Milwaukee County	$874	$1,126	2017	-$253	-22%	$1,181	$1,478	2017	-$297	-20%
Wyoming*	Statewide	$521	$650	2017	-$129	-20%	$573	$750	2017	-$178	-24%

Table 4e: State Tiered Payment Rates for Center Care for a Four-Year-Old in 2018

State	City/county/ region	Number of quality tier levels (including base rate)	Payment rate for lowest tier	Payment rate for highest tier	Payment rates between lowest and highest tiers	Difference between lowest and highest tiers	Percentage difference between lowest and highest tiers	75th percentile of market rates	Difference between highest rate and 75th percentile	Percentage difference between highest rate and 75th percentile
Alabama*	Birmingham Region	6	$580	$637	$593, $602, $615, $628	$57	10%	$745	-$108	-15%
Alaska	Anchorage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arizona*	Maricopa County (Phoenix)	3	$515	$618	$567	$103	20%	$883	-$265	-30%
Arkansas	Urban Areas	3	$511	$588	$536	$77	15%	$520	$68	13%
California	Los Angeles County	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Colorado*	Denver County	5	$682	$1,001	$693, $844, $990	$319	47%	$1,170	-$169	-14%
Connecticut	North Central	2	$693	$727	N/A	$35	5%	$1,225	-$498	-41%
Delaware*	New Castle County	4	$574	$883	$693, $805	$310	54%	$1,003	-$120	-12%
District of Columbia*	Citywide	4	$1,058	$1,331	$1,103, $1,235	$273	26%	$1,409	-$78	-6%
Florida*	Miami-Dade County	2	$482	$578	N/A	$96	20%	$631	-$53	-8%
Georgia*	Zone 1	4	$494	$692	$543, $593	$198	40%	$884	-$192	-22%
Hawaii*	Statewide	2	$740	$919	N/A	$179	24%	$980	-$61	-6%
Idaho	Cluster 2 (Boise)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Illinois*	Metropolitan Region	3	$738	$849	$812	$111	15%	$1,156	-$307	-27%
Indiana	Marion County (Indianapolis)	4	$762	$1,065	$914, $992	$303	40%	$974	$91	9%
Iowa*	Statewide	4	$649	$822	$682, $722	$173	27%	$822	$0	0%
Kansas	Sedgwick County	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kentucky*	Jefferson County	4	$541	$628	See notes	$86	16%	$675	-$48	-7%
Louisiana*	Statewide	5	$465	$573	$484, $517, $542	$107	23%	$650	-$77	-12%
Maine*	Cumberland County	4	$1,121	$1,234	$1,144, $1,178	$112	10%	$1,121	$112	10%
Maryland*	Region W	4	$628	$791	$691, $747	$163	26%	$888	-$97	-11%
Massachusetts*	Northeast (Region 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Michigan	Statewide	5	$536	$828	$585, $682, $731	$292	55%	$1,023	-$195	-19%
Minnesota	Hennepin County	3	$870	$1,044	$1,001	$174	20%	$1,230	-$185	-15%
Mississippi*	Statewide	2	$440	$550	N/A	$110	25%	$440	$110	25%
Missouri*	St. Louis	2	$406	$487	N/A	$81	20%	$1,083	-$596	-55%
Montana*	Statewide	5	$758	$909	$796, $834, $871	$152	20%	$758	$152	20%
Nebraska*	Urban Counties	7	$812	$1,024	$852, $895, $929, $940, $975	$212	26%	$992	$32	3%
Nevada*	Clark County	6	$498	$866	$779, $801, $823, $844	$368	74%	$932	-$66	-7%
New Hampshire	Statewide	3	$801	$881	$841	$80	10%	$953	-$71	-8%
New Jersey*	Statewide	5	$645	$775	$677, $703, $738	$130	20%	$1,055	-$280	-27%
New Mexico*	Statewide	5	$491	$841	$579, $591, $741	$350	71%	$894	-$53	-6%
New York*	New York City	2	$1,048	$1,205	N/A	$157	15%	$1,117	$88	8%
North Carolina*	Mecklenburg County	4	$477	$1,035	$881, $939	$558	117%	$1,153	-$118	-10%
North Dakota	Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ohio*	Franklin County	7	$637	$894	$695, $700, $781, $801, $854	$257	40%	$974	-$80	-8%
Oklahoma*	Statewide	4	$292	$546	$401, $494	$254	87%	$645	-$100	-15%
Oregon*	Group Area A (Portland)	4	$1,060	$1,150	$1,114, $1,132	$90	8%	$1,100	$50	5%
Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia	4	$725	$924	$746, $853	$199	27%	$844	$80	9%
Rhode Island*	Statewide	5	$718	$847	$735, $770, $791	$130	18%	$996	-$149	-15%
South Carolina*	Urban Areas	5	$701	$788	$723, $745, $766	$87	12%	$700	$89	13%
South Dakota	Minnehaha County	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tennessee*	Top Tier Counties	4	$429	$515	$450, $494	$86	20%	$742	-$227	-31%
Texas*	Gulf Coast Area	4	$517	$718	$582, $646	$201	39%	$742	-$24	-3%
Utah*	Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vermont	Statewide	6	$578	$809	$607, $636, $694, $751	$231	40%	$1,083	-$273	-25%
Virginia	Fairfax County	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Washington*	King County	5	$1,203	$1,384	$1,227, $1,251, $1,323	$180	15%	$1,495	-$111	-7%
West Virginia	Statewide	3	$606	$693	$650	$87	14%	$650	$43	7%
Wisconsin*	Milwaukee County	4	$865	$1,109	$874, $970	$245	28%	$1,126	-$17	-1%
Wyoming	Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes for Tables 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e: Payment Rates

State payment rates are compared to the 75th percentile of market rates (the rate designed to allow families access to 75 percent of providers in their community) because federal regulations recommend that rates be set at this level. In this report, a state's payment rates are only considered to be at the federally recommended level if rates for all (or nearly all) categories—such as different regions, age groups, types of care, and quality levels (including the base rate)—are at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates, and market rate surveys are only considered current if conducted no more than two years earlier (so, for example, rates used in 2019 are considered current if set at the 75th percentile of 2017 or more recent market rates).

States were asked to report payment rates and the 75th percentile of market rates for their most populous city, county, or region. Monthly rates were calculated from hourly, daily, and weekly rates assuming the child was in care 9 hours a day, 5 days a week, 4.33 weeks a month.

Differences between state payment rates and the 75th percentile were calculated using raw data, rather than the rounded numbers shown in the table.

For states that pay higher rates for higher-quality care, the most common rate level (the level representing the greatest number of providers) for each state is used for the data analysis in Table 4d, unless otherwise indicated. The rates analyzed in the tables do not reflect other types of higher rates or rate enhancements, such as higher rates paid for care for children with special needs or care during nontraditional hours.

Data in the tables for 2019 reflect policies as of February 2019, data in the tables for 2018 reflect policies as of February 2018, and data in the tables for 2001 reflect policies as of June 2001, unless otherwise indicated. Certain changes in policies since February 2019 are noted below.

Alabama: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates to the 70th percentile of 2017 market rates as of October 2018.

Arizona: Payment rates were set at the 75th percentile of 2000 market rates in 2006. On July 1, 2007, the state implemented a 5 percent increase in rates. As of April 2009, the state reversed this 5 percent increase and rates reverted to the level at which they had been set in 2006. The payment rates in Table 4e reflect that, as of April 2018, the state increased the 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. As of June 2019, the state increased base payment rates to the 50th percentile of 2010 market rates or the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates, whichever was higher, and began paying three-star providers a tiered rate that is 5 percent above the base rate.

Arkansas: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child and region. The state began providing higher payment rates for higher-quality care under the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has three star levels) in June 2014. As of January 2016, all providers serving families receiving child care assistance must have a rating of one star or higher. The previous base rate, which had not been increased since 2007 and was paid to providers that did not meet the criteria for a star rating, was eliminated; the base rate is now the rate for one-star providers. Also note that providers with two- or three-star ratings are allowed to charge parents the difference between the state payment rate and the rate charged to private-paying parents; however, providers cannot charge the difference to foster families or families receiving TANF.

California: Payment rates for licensed care were set at the 75th percentile of 2016 market rates (unless existing rates were higher, in which case they were not changed) as of January 2018. Payment rates for license-exempt family child care were set at 70 percent of payment rates for licensed family child care as of January 2017.

Colorado: Counties set payment rates within state guidelines and determine when to change their rates. As of September 2016, all counties were required to have higher rates for higher-quality care; previously, counties determined whether to offer tiered rates for higher-quality care (and some counties, including Denver, did offer such rates prior to the requirement). As of July 2019, counties are required to set payment rates at the 10th percentile of market rates for providers that are at levels one and two of the state's quality rating and improvement system and that are caring for preschool- and school-age children, the 25th percentile for providers that are at levels one and two and that are caring for infants and toddlers, the 50th percentile for providers at level three, and the 75th percentile for providers at levels four and five; previously, the state recommended—but did not require—these payment rate levels. Prior to 2019, Denver had last changed its rates in August 2016, lowering its base rates and raising rates at higher quality tiers.

Connecticut: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the type of care, age of the child, and region. The state increased payment rates for centers as of October 2019, and increased payment rates for licensed and license-exempt family child care as of July 2019 (retroactive to October 2018); with these increases, all payment rates were at least at the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates. Prior to 2019, the state had last increased payment rates for centers in January 2015, and for licensed and license-exempt family child care in January 2017.

Delaware: Providers are allowed to charge parents the difference between the state payment rate and the rate charged to private-paying parents under the Purchase of Care Plus option (although providers must also reserve at least a certain portion of slots for families who are not charged the difference between the state rate and the private-pay rate). Also note that the state has five quality rating levels, but only four different payment rate tiers; providers at both quality level one and quality level two (as well as providers that do not have a quality rating) receive the base rate. The state increased base and tiered payment rates in May 2019 and again in July 2019; base rates were raised to the 65th percentile of 2018 market rates. Prior to 2019, the state had last increased rates for providers at the top two quality levels in July 2014, and had last increased all other rates in 2011.

District of Columbia: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the District increased base and tiered rates—and increased the number of rate levels from three to four—as of October 2018. The District increased payment rates for all types of care and all age groups, and based these increases on a cost estimation model, which assesses the cost of delivering child care services at different levels of quality, in different settings, and serving children of differing ages and needs.

Florida: Local early learning coalitions determine their payment rates and when to update them. Between February 2018 and February 2019, 13 local coalitions received approval for rate increases; Miami-Dade County last increased its rates in March 2017. In addition, local coalitions may pay rates that are up to 20 percent higher than the base rate for Gold Seal providers, a designation indicating higher-quality care and tied to accreditation. The state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at the base level and at the Gold Seal level; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the base level (the most common rate level) is compared to the 75th percentile for that same quality level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level (the Gold Star level) is compared to the 75th percentile for that quality level.

Georgia: Zone 1 includes Camden, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale Counties. The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased base rates for care for infants and toddlers to the 25th percentile of 2017 market rates as of December 2018. The payment rates in Table 4e reflect that the state increased rates for providers with ratings of one star or higher in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has three levels) as of October 2018; tiered rates were increased from 5 percent to 10 percent above the base rate for one-star providers, from 10 percent to 20 percent above the base rate for two-star providers, and from 25 percent to 40 percent above the base rate for three-star providers. The state also began paying 50 percent above the base rate to providers awarded Quality Rated Subsidy Grants, which fund a specific number of slots for children receiving child care assistance at the provider's site, as of October 2018. The state increased base payment rates for care for preschool- and school-age children to the 25th percentile of 2017 market rates as of September 2019.

Hawaii: The state last increased rates for licensed center care and license-exempt before- and after-school care in 2017, last increased rates for license-exempt relative and non-relative care in 2010, and last increased rates for licensed family child care in 2008. Also note that the state has higher rates for accredited center care for children over age 24 months through the time the children are eligible to enroll in kindergarten or junior kindergarten (usually age five by the end of the calendar year, depending on the child's birth date). The state does not have accredited rates for care for infants and toddlers or for family child care. For center care for preschoolers, the state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at each quality level; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the base level (the most common rate level) is compared to the 75th percentile for that same quality level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level (the accredited rate) is compared to the 75th percentile for that quality level.

Idaho: Cluster 2 includes Ada, Blaine, Boise, Bonner, Bonneville, Latah, Lewis, Teton, and Valley Counties. The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased rates from the 65th percentile of 2015 market rates to the 65th percentile of 2018 market rates as of February 2019.

Illinois: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, and region. Payment rates are reported for the Metropolitan Region (referred to as Group 1A), which includes Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry Counties. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased rates for center care by 4.26 percent as of July 2018. Also note that providers can charge parents the difference between the state rate and the provider's private-pay fee, unless they have a contract with the state for a set number of slots with the child care assistance program.

Indiana: Payment rates are at approximately the 61st percentile of 2015 market rates statewide across all categories; payment rates for specific categories of care vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, and county. The state last increased payment rates for providers at levels two, three, and four of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has four levels) in September 2016, and last increased payment rates for license-exempt providers in September 2015. All other rates were last increased in May 2014.

Iowa: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates to the 45th percentile of 2017 market rates, increased rates for providers at quality level five of the state's quality rating and improvement system to the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates, and introduced two new tiered rate levels for providers at quality levels one through four, as of January 2019. Also note that the state calculates payments based on units of care; a unit is a half day (up to 5 hours of service per 24-hour period), so 9 hours of care a day, 5 days a week, 4.33 weeks a month would equal 44 units.

Kansas: The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased rates from the 40th percentile of 2014 market rates to the 65th percentile of 2017 market rates as of November 2018. (Rates for individual counties range from below the 5th percentile to above the 100th percentile of market rates.)

Kentucky: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates to the 40th percentile of 2017 market rates as of December 2018. The payment amounts in the tables also reflect that, as of April 2018, the state adopted a new quality rating and improvement system with five levels and higher bonuses than available under the previous system. For example, under the new system, for care for four-year-olds, the bonus above the base rate is $23 per month for three-star licensed centers, $33 per month for four-star licensed centers, and $43 per month for five-star licensed centers. (One- and two-star providers do not receive a bonus above the base rate.) Under the state's previous quality rating and improvement system, there were four levels and the amount of the bonus varied depending on the percentage of children served by the provider receiving child care assistance; for example, for care for four-year-olds, the bonus above the base rate was $7 to $11 per month for two-star providers, $11 to $15 per month for three-star providers, and $14 to $18 per month for four-star providers. (One-star providers did not receive a bonus above the base rate.) Accredited providers can still receive, to the extent funds are available, an additional $2 per day on top of their quality bonus. The highest rate shown in Table 4e assumes that the provider was at the five-star level and was accredited.

Louisiana: The state last increased base payment rates in February 2016. Also note that, although shown in Table 4e as incorporated into the monthly payment rate, bonuses for higher-quality care are paid quarterly. The payment rates in Table 4e reflect that as of January 2019, the state reduced the bonus for a center at the two-star level of the state's quality rating and improvement system from 6 percent to 4 percent above the base rate; bonuses remained at 11 percent above the base rate for three-star centers, 16.5 percent above the base rate for four-star centers, and 23 percent above the base rate for five-star centers. Family child care providers are not eligible for bonuses.

Maine: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates for center care and family child care for all age groups to the 75th percentile of 2018 market rates as of June 2018; previously, base payment rates for center care for school-age children and for licensed family child care (for all age groups) were set at the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates and base payment rates for all other categories of care were set at the 50th percentile of 2015 market rates.

Maryland: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates to at least the 20th percentile of 2017 market rates as of May 2018. The state increased base rates to at least the 30th percentile of 2019 market rates as of June 2019. Also note that Region W includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, and Prince George's Counties.

Massachusetts: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, and region. Payment rates for center care and family child care for infants and toddlers were set at the 50th percentile of 2015 market rates in regions where rates were below that level as of April 2017. Payment rates for all providers were then increased by 6 percent in August 2017 (retroactive to July 2017), and by another 2 percent in February 2018 (retroactive to July 2017). The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased payment rates for center care by an additional 4.58 percent as of January 2019 (retroactive to July 2018). The state also increased rates for family child care by 3.94 percent as of July 2018. In addition, payment rates were increased to the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates as of July 2019 for those categories not already at that level. Also note that the state pays higher rates (3 percent above the base rate) for center care and family child care at level two or above of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has four levels) for children up to 2.9 years old.

Minnesota: Base payment rates were set at the 25th percentile of 2011 market rates or left at the existing level (the level that went into effect as of November 2011, following a 2.5 percent rate reduction), whichever was higher, as of February 2014. The state last increased the number of payment rate tiers and the differential between the lowest and highest tiers as of March 2014.

Mississippi: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates to the 75th percentile of 2016 market rates as of May 2018. Previously, payment rates for licensed centers were at the 51st percentile of 2009 market rates for infants, 49th percentile for toddlers, 56th percentile for preschoolers, 62nd percentile for school-age care during the summer, and 75th percentile for special needs care; payment rates for family child care were at the 36th percentile for infants, 65th percentile for toddlers, 64th percentile for preschoolers, 75th percentile for school-age care during the summer, and 42nd percentile for special needs care. Also note that Table 4e reflects that the state established a tiered rate for centers meeting a new set of quality standards, designated as comprehensive centers, and began piloting the designation in 2019; however, no centers had yet qualified for the higher rate as of October 2019. Previously, the state had two separate tiers for providers: tier two for those meeting basic licensing/regulatory requirements and tier one for those that were accredited or had a director who met certain educational and/or experience criteria; tier one providers received a higher rate.

Missouri: The state increased payment rates as of August 2019. Also note that the state does not allow families receiving protective services to be charged the difference between the state payment rate and the rate charged to private-paying parents.

Montana: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates to the 75th percentile of 2016 market rates as of October 2018. Previously, payment rates were set at the 75th percentile of 2009 market rates in 2009, and then increased by 2 percent as of August 2013, an additional 2 percent as of July 2014, and another 2 percent as of January 2016. In addition, the state changed from using regional rates to using statewide rates as of October 2018. Also note that data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 2000 are used instead.

Nebraska: Urban Counties include Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates from at least the 50th percentile to at least the 60th percentile of 2017 market rates as of July 2018. The state increased payment rates again as of July 2019. Under the state's tiered rates system, non-accredited providers are paid at the base rate if they do not participate in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) or are at step one or two of the system, 5 percent above the base rate once they reach step three, 5 percent above the rate for step three once they reach step four, and 5 percent above the rate for step four once they reach step five; accredited providers are paid at the accredited rate (which was not increased) if they do not participate in the quality rating and improvement system or are at step one, two, or three, 5 percent above the accredited rate once they reach step four, and 5 percent above the accredited rate for step four once they reach step five. For center care, the state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for accredited and non-accredited providers; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the base level (the most common rate level) is compared to the 75th percentile for non-accredited care, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level is compared to the 75th percentile for accredited care. Also note that providers are not allowed to charge parents or caretakers receiving child care assistance the difference between the state payment rate and the provider's private-pay rate, except in the case of a foster parent or a family receiving a guardianship or adoption subsidy.

Nevada: In 2004, base payment rates were set at the 75th percentile of 2004 market rates. In October 2016, the state increased tiered rates for providers with ratings of two stars or higher in the state's quality rating and improvement system, with the payment rate for five-star providers (the highest quality level) set at the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates. The payment rates in Tables 4d and 4e reflect that, as of February 2019, the state increased payment rates to the 55th percentile of 2015 market rates for one-star providers, the 60th percentile for two-star providers, the 65th percentile for three-star providers, and the 70th percentile for four-star providers. As of March 2019, base payment rates (which apply to licensed providers not assigned a quality rating) were increased to the 55th percentile of 2015 market rates (equal to the payment rate for one-star providers).

New Jersey: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child and type of care. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates for center care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers as of May 2018 and again as of January 2019. The payment rates in Table 4e also reflect that the state implemented new tiered rates for licensed centers that have three-, four-, and five-star ratings under the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) and that serve infants, toddlers, and preschoolers as of June 2018, and then increased these rates as of January 2019. The state previously only had tiered rates for accredited care; accredited rates are being phased out for centers—these rates are now only available to centers that were accredited prior to June 2018—but will still be available for school-age providers and family child care providers, which are not eligible for the new tiered rates. The state increased base and tiered payment rates for centers again as of September 2019. The state last increased payment rates for approved home providers and registered family child care providers represented by the Child Care Workers Union in August 2014. Also note that data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 2000 are used instead.

New Mexico: The state increased payment rates for care for infants and toddlers and established new quality tiers, with rates at the highest quality levels exceeding the previous highest rates, as of July 2014. (Rates in Table 4d reflect tiered rates for the newer quality rating and improvement system; the older quality rating and improvement system was phased out at the end of 2017. The older system had four rate tiers and the newer system has five rate tiers; the rates at each of the bottom two tiers were the same for both systems.) The state raised payment rates for rural areas so that they equaled rates for metro areas as of January 2015, and now uses a single set of rates statewide. The state increased base rates for licensed care for preschoolers and school-age children, as well as rate differentials at the top two levels of the newer quality rating system for center care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, as of October 2015. Also note that the state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at each quality level of the state's current quality rating and improvement system; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the base level (the most common rate level) is compared to the 75th percentile for that same quality level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level is compared to the 75th percentile for the highest quality level.

New York: Local social services districts may set payment rates for accredited providers that are up to 15 percent higher than base rates. Also note that the state increased base payment rates to the 69th percentile of 2017-18 market rates as of May 2019.

North Carolina: The state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at each quality level of the state's quality rating and improvement system; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the most common rate level is compared to the 75th percentile for that same quality level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level is compared to the 75th percentile for that quality level. There are five star levels in the state's quality rating and improvement system, which is mandatory for all licensed providers, except those that are religious sponsored. One- and two-star providers are no longer eligible to serve children receiving child care assistance. Religious-sponsored providers not participating in the quality rating and improvement system and new providers with a temporary license are paid at the rate previously used for one-star providers; this rate was set based on 2003 market rate survey data. Also note that the state's 100 counties are ranked based on economic well-being and assigned a tier designation, with the

40 most distressed counties designated as tier one, the next 40 as tier two, and the 20 least distressed as tier three; Mecklenburg County is a tier three county. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased payment rates for three-, four-, and five-star licensed care for children ages three through five in tier three counties to the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates as of October 2018. (The payment rates shown in Table 4c are for three-star centers.) Payment rates for three-, four-, and five-star licensed care for children birth through age two in tier three counties, as well as for school-age children in tier one and tier two counties, had been increased to the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates as of October 2017. The state increased payment rates for three-, four-, and five-star licensed care for children birth through age five in tier one and tier two counties to the 100th percentile of 2015 market rates as of October 2018.

North Dakota: The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased rates from the 50th percentile of 2015 market rates to the 60th percentile of 2015 market rates as of March 2018, and then to the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates as of October 2018.

Ohio: The state reduced base payment rates to the 26th percentile of 2008 market rates (from the 35th percentile of 2008 market rates) as of July 2011. The state increased rates for providers with ratings of two stars or higher in the state's quality rating and improvement system as of June 2016, and implemented additional rate increases for all star-rated providers as of September 2016. The state placed 38 counties in different rate groups as of December 2018. The state increased base payment rates to the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates (if not already at or above that level) as of July 2019.

Oklahoma: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child and type of care. Also note that the state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at each quality level; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the most common rate level is compared to the 75th percentile for that same quality level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level is compared to the 75th percentile for that quality level. The state's quality rating and improvement system has four levels: one-star (which is the basic licensing level and the base payment rate level), one-star plus, two-star, and three-star. The payment rates in Tables 4d and 4e reflect that as of August 2018, the state increased payment rates for two- and three-star care for children birth through age three to the 65th percentile of 2017 market rates for Enhanced Areas and increased Enhanced Area payment rates for all other categories of care, except for one-star centers, by 7 percent. (Payment rates for one-star centers, which had last been increased in 2013, remained the same.) In addition, the state began applying the new Enhanced Area rates to all counties, so that there is now a set of unified statewide rates; prior to August 2018, Enhanced Area rates applied to 19 out of 77 counties in the state (Caddo, Canadian, Cherokee, Cleveland, Comanche, Creek, Garfield, Kay, Logan, McCurtain, Oklahoma, Ottawa, Payne, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Tulsa, Wagoner, Washington, and Woods), and Standard Area rates applied to the remaining counties.

Oregon: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased payment rates for all types of care as of January 2019. Payment rates for centers are between the 63rd and 90th percentile of 2018 market rates and payment rates for licensed family child care are at the 75th percentile. Also note that Group Area A includes the Ashland, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Monmouth, and Portland areas.

Pennsylvania: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, county, unit of care (whether full- or part-time), and quality level of care. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates by 2.5 percent as of August 2018.

Rhode Island: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates for centers, and established tiered rates for higher-quality centers, as of July 2018. The state also increased base rates for licensed family child care, and established tiered rates for higher-quality licensed family child care, as of July 2018, and then increased base and tiered rates for licensed family child care as of January 2019. In addition, the state increased base rates for license-exempt family child care, and established tiered rates for higher-quality license-exempt family child care, as of January 2019.

South Carolina: The state's quality rating and improvement system, which is mandatory for all providers serving families receiving child care assistance, has five levels—C (which receives the base payment rate), B, B+, A, and A+. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates and tiered rates as of October 2018. Payment rates range from the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates for providers at Level C to the 90th percentile of 2017 market rates for providers at Level A+.

South Dakota: The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased rates to the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates as of June 2018.

Tennessee: Top Tier Counties are those with the 20 highest average populations in 2015 and/or 20 highest per capita incomes in 2014-2016; these counties include: Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Coffee, Davidson, Fayette, Greene, Hamilton, Knox, Loudon, Madison, Maury, Montgomery, Moore, Putnam, Roane, Robertson, Rutherford, Sevier, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Tipton, Trousdale, Washington, Williamson, and Wilson. Also note that the state increased payment rates as of April 2019.

Texas: Local workforce development boards set their payment rates, within state parameters, and determine when to update them. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that, as of August 2018, the state required local boards to increase payment rates for providers not participating in the state's quality rating and improvement system, or at the one-star level, by 2 percent; increase payment rates for four-star providers to at least the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates; increase payment rates for three-star providers to at least 90 percent of the four-star rate; and increase payment rates for two-star providers to at least 90 percent of the three-star rate. (Previously, the state required boards to set their rates at 5 percent above the base rate or higher for two-star providers; 7 percent above the base rate or higher for three-star providers; and 9 percent above the base rate or higher for four-star providers). Also note that providers are allowed to charge parents the difference between the payment rate and the rate charged to private-paying parents, unless specifically prohibited by the local board or when the parent is exempt from having to pay a copayment or the parent's copayment is calculated to be zero.

Utah: The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased payment rates from the 70th percentile of 2015 market rates to the 60th percentile of 2017 market rates as of October 2018. Also note that as of October 2019, the state will implement a quality rating and improvement system; providers rated as high quality will receive an additional payment of $175 per month per child (based on the average number of children receiving assistance per month during the previous 12 months) and providers rated as high quality plus will receive an additional payment of $200 per month per child.

Vermont: The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased base rates and tiered rates for care for infants and toddlers as of July 2018 and again as of January 2019, so that payment rates for providers at the four-star level of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) are at the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates. The state last increased rates for other age groups in 2013.

Virginia: The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased payment rates for all licensed providers to the 70th percentile of 2018 market rates as of June 2018.

Washington: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates for centers as of February 2019. Payment rates were increased so that rates at level 2 of the state's quality rating and improvement system, which are 2 percent above the base rate, are at the 45th percentile of 2018 market rates. Payment rates for licensed family child care were increased to at least the 55th percentile of market rates as of July 2019; prior to that date, the state had last increased rates for licensed and license-exempt family child care providers as of July 2017. Also note that providers must enroll in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five quality levels) within 30 days of receiving their first payment through the child care assistance program, and must achieve a quality rating of three or higher within 30 months of registering for the quality rating and improvement system to continue serving families receiving assistance.

West Virginia: Data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 2000 are used instead.

Wisconsin: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased payment rates in November 2018 and again in January 2019. In November 2018, the state increased payment rates for care for children birth through age three by 5 percent and increased rates for infant care in all counties to at least $5 per hour. In addition, as of November 2018, the state increased payment rates for two-star providers so that they are only 1 percent lower than the rate for three-star providers; previously, the rate for two-star providers was 5 percent lower than the rate for three-star providers. (The state's quality rating and improvement system has five levels; providers must be at least at the two-star level to serve families receiving child care assistance.) In January 2019, the state increased payment rates for all age groups statewide by 5 percent. (Prior to 2018, the state had last increased payment rates in November 2014, when rates were set so that all were within 18 percent of the 75th percentile of 2014 market rates.)

Wyoming: The state increased payment rates to the 25th percentile of 2017 market rates (if not already at or above that level) as of October 2019. Prior to that date, the state had last made changes to its payment rates in July 2012—when it reduced rates—and before that had last updated payment rates in 2007.

Table 5: Eligibility for Child Care Assistance While a Parent Searches for a Job in 2018 and 2019

	Length of time parents can continue to receive child care assistance when they lose a job while receiving assistance		Length of time parents can receive child care assistance if searching for a job when they apply for assistance	
State	2019	2018	2019	2018
Alabama*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Alaska*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Arizona*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Arkansas*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
California*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	12 months	12 months
Colorado*	13 weeks	13 weeks	Local decision	Local decision
Connecticut*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Delaware*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
District of Columbia*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Florida*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Georgia*	13 weeks	13 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Hawaii*	30 days	30 days	30 days	30 days
Idaho*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Illinois*	90 days	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Indiana*	16 weeks	13 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Iowa*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Kansas*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Kentucky*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Louisiana*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Maine*	12 weeks	12 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Maryland*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Massachusetts*	12 weeks	8 weeks	12 weeks	8 weeks
Michigan*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Minnesota*	3 months	3 months	240 hours	240 hours
Mississippi*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Missouri*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Montana*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Nebraska*	2 months	2 months	2 months	2 months
Nevada*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
New Hampshire*	92 days	92 days	92 days	92 days
New Jersey*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
New Mexico*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
New York*	Local decision	Local decision	Local decision	Local decision
North Carolina*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
North Dakota*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Ohio*	13 weeks	13 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Oklahoma*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Oregon*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Pennsylvania*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Rhode Island*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	21 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
South Carolina*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
South Dakota*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Tennessee*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Texas*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Utah*	3 months	3 months	150 hours	150 hours
Vermont*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Virginia*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
Washington*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
West Virginia*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Wisconsin*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Wyoming*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible

Notes for Table 5: Eligibility for Child Care Assistance While Parents Search for a Job

The table reflects policies that apply to families not receiving TANF; policies may differ for families receiving TANF.

Data in the table for 2019 reflect policies as of February 2019, and data in the table for 2018 reflect policies as of February 2018. Certain changes in policies since February 2019 are noted below.

Alabama: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 90-day period.

Alaska: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months (beginning the month after the non-temporary job loss was reported) even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 3-month period. Also note that parents cannot qualify for child care assistance if they are searching for a job when they submit their application for assistance, but they can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months if they experience a job loss after they submit the application, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria.

Arizona: 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. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and participating in the Jobs Program.

Arkansas: 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; if the end of the eligibility period occurs before the end of the 90-day period for job search, the family's assistance could be extended once eligibility is reevaluated.

California: In 2018 and 2019, parents could initially qualify or recertify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 12 months, for no more than 5 days per week and less than 30 hours per week. The state planned to increase the limit on the number of hours of child care for which a parent could receive assistance while searching for a job to 32.5 hours as of October 2019.

Colorado: Counties must allow parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 weeks (and may allow a longer period of time). As of September 2018, counties are required to allow parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 13 weeks after each instance of the loss of a job or other activity; prior to that date, parents could continue receiving assistance while searching for a job for only 13 weeks per year. Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 weeks even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 13-week period, but they must provide the required verification at the end of their eligibility period for assistance to continue. Counties can choose whether to allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

Connecticut: 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. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and participating in an approved Jobs First Employment Services activity.

Delaware: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 90-day period. Parents are authorized for assistance for the same number of hours of child care during their job search as they had while they were employed. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are participating with a SNAP or TANF Employment and Training Vendor.

District of Columbia: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if it is a structured job search through an approved agency.

Florida: 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. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are applying for or receiving TANF.

Georgia: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 consecutive weeks even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 13-week period. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, or a natural disaster or have a qualifying child protective services case.

Hawaii: Parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 30 consecutive days once in a 12-month period.

Idaho: 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.

Illinois: In 2018, parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 1 month, up to three times within a 12-month period; parents had 30 days to report a job loss. In 2019, parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days even if they reached the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 90-day period. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and searching for a job is approved as part of their TANF Responsibility and Service plan.

Indiana: In 2018, parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 cumulative weeks per 12-month period beginning one day after the loss of a job. Parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 weeks even if they reached the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 13-week period. As of July 2018, parents receiving child care assistance are allowed a time-limited absence to care for a family member, to recover from illness, when not working between regular industry work seasons, for holidays or breaks in employment or education, due to a reduction in work or education hours, or due to any other cessation of work or an education program for a period not to exceed 16 weeks, beginning one day after their loss of employment. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and participating in the state's employment and training program, and have a referral from their caseworker.

Iowa: 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.

Kansas: 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. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF or SNAP and searching for a job is part of their work program plan, or if they are receiving social service child care or participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program and it is part of their social service plan.

Kentucky: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 calendar months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Parents can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they document at least 10 potential employer contacts.

Louisiana: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness and either participating in a transitional living program or seeking employment by registering for work with the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

Maine: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 12 weeks even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 12-week period.

Maryland: 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. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are applying for or receiving TANF and participating in an approved TANF activity.

Massachusetts: Prior to October 2018, parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for an additional 4 weeks (on top of the initial 8 weeks allowed within a 52-week period) if there were extraordinary circumstances. As of October 2018, parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 12 weeks, and can do so multiple times during their eligibility period (as long as the job search periods are not consecutive) and do not need to have special circumstances to receive the full 12 weeks to search for a job. If a parent loses a job less than 30 days before the end of their eligibility period, the family can continue receiving child care assistance for up to 12 weeks after the end of the original eligibility period; if a parent loses a job more than 30 days before the end of their eligibility period, the family can only continue receiving child care assistance until the end of the original eligibility period.

Michigan: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF.

Minnesota: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 calendar months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Parents can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 240 hours per calendar year, for no more than 20 hours per week.

Mississippi: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 90-day period. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF.

Missouri: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the last day of the month in which the 90th day allowed for job search falls. Parents can continue receiving child care assistance until the end of this time period even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of the time limit for job search.

Montana: 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.

Nebraska: The state extended the amount of time parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job to 3 months, and stopped allowing parents to qualify for assistance while searching for a job, as of October 2019. Prior to that date, parents could receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 2 consecutive calendar months following each instance of the loss of employment; parents already receiving child care assistance could continue to receive it while searching for a job to cover the same number of hours of child care as before their job loss, and parents applying for child care assistance could receive assistance to cover up to 20 hours of care per week.

Nevada: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF, are homeless, or participate in wrap-around services.

New Hampshire: 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.

New Jersey: Families receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it for up to 3 calendar months, and can request to receive it for an additional 3 calendar months (for a total of 6 months), while searching for a job. Parents can continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of this time period even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of the time limit for job search.

New Mexico: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance following a temporary change of activity, including the cessation of work or attendance at a training or education program, for up to 90 days. Parents can also continue receiving assistance when they experience a non-temporary change of activity, including the loss of employment, during a 3-month grace period. A parent can continue receiving child care assistance for 90 days following a job loss plus an additional 3 months to look for work during the grace period, for a total of 6 months. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and approved for job search.

New York: Local social services districts must allow parents receiving TANF to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 2 consecutive weeks while searching for a job, or up to 4 weeks if necessary for the family to maintain their child care arrangements. Local districts may allow other parents to continue receiving child care assistance during a break in their activities. Local districts may also choose to allow parents to qualify or continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 6 months if the district has funds available. Child care assistance is only provided for the portion of the day a parent documents as directly related to seeking employment. Local districts may impose additional limitations on child care assistance for parents to search for a job.

North Carolina: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 90-day period.

North Dakota: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 consecutive months within a 12-month eligibility period or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving or transitioning from TANF or are experiencing homelessness.

Ohio: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 weeks or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness or if they are receiving TANF and have job search as an approved activity. Prior to October 2019, homeless families could receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days once within a 12-month period; as of October 2019, homeless families can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days multiple times within a 12-month period.

Oklahoma: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and job search is an approved activity.

Oregon: 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. Parents can continue receiving assistance for longer than 3 months after the loss of a job if they provide verification from an employer of the date they expect to return to work.

Pennsylvania: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are homeless; families experiencing homelessness can qualify for child care assistance for up to 92 days while searching for a job. Parents already receiving child care assistance can be eligible at redetermination for presumptive eligibility, for 92 days, if they are not working because they are on approved leave (disability, maternity, or a temporary break) and have a verified job to go back to within 92 days.

Rhode Island: In 2018, parents could continue receiving child care assistance for up to 21 consecutive days from the beginning of a period of unemployment; parents had to report the change in employment within 10 days and were not eligible for continued assistance if they quit without good cause. In 2019, parents could continue receiving child care assistance until the end of their eligibility period, unless the parent lost a job near the end of the eligibility period, in which case the family could continue receiving child care assistance for a 3-month period that would extend beyond the end of the eligibility period. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are entering an approved education or training program or if they are receiving TANF.

South Carolina: 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. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness, dual language learners, or receiving assistance through TANF-related funding sources.

South Dakota: 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.

Tennessee: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 90-day period.

Texas: 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. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if their family is experiencing homelessness.

Utah: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months, following the month in which they lose a job, even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 3-month period (although they must complete the recertification). Parents are required to report the job loss within 10 days, and the job loss must be verified by the end of the first month of the job search period to continue receiving child care assistance through the second and third month. As of July 2018, parents were allowed 3 months of job search after each instance of job loss; prior to that date, they were only allowed one 3-month job search period per 12-month eligibility period. As of July 2019, parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of their 12-month eligibility period. Also note that under the state's separate Kids-In-Care Program, parents can qualify or continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 150 hours in a 6-month period.

Vermont: 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.

Virginia: In 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. In 2019, parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of their 12-month eligibility period. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are participating in TANF's work program.

Washington: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and job search is an approved activity or if they are experiencing homelessness.

West Virginia: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months (for up to 8 hours per day, 5 days per week) even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 3-month period.

Wisconsin: 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. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are participating in TANF, Tribal TANF, or the FoodShare Employment and Training program.

Wyoming: 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.

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