

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Alaska

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in Alaska could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$61,872 (290 percent of poverty, 74 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Alaska had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2019.
- **Parent copayments:** In 2019, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty (\$21,330 a year) receiving child care assistance in Alaska paid \$53 per month, or 3 percent of its income, in copayments. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$31,995 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$156 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, Alaska's payment rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were below the federally recommended level—the 75th percentile of current market rates, which is the level designed to give families access to 75 percent of the providers in their community.
 - Alaska's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Anchorage was \$700, which was \$223 (24 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Alaska's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Anchorage was \$900, which was \$106 (11 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, Alaska did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, Alaska allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while searching for a job for up to 3 months.³ However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving assistance while searching for a job.⁴

Source: Karen Schulman, Early Progress: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2019 (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2019). These data reflect policies as of February 2019, unless otherwise indicated.

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- 1 The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) payment, which the majority of families in the state receive, is not counted when determining eligibility.
 - 2 Families applying for or receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), children receiving protective services, and children in foster care are exempt from copayments.
 - 3 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.
 - 4 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.