

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Connecticut

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in Connecticut could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$47,270 (222 percent of poverty, 50 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Connecticut 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 Connecticut paid \$71 per month, or 4 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 \$160 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, Connecticut'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.³
 - Connecticut's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region was \$693,⁴ which was \$533 (43 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Connecticut's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in the North Central Region was \$870,⁵ which was \$606 (41 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, Connecticut had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
 - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region at the highest quality tier was 5 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, Connecticut allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job.⁶ However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.⁷

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.

-
- 1 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).
 - 2 Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and with parents participating in an approved training or education activity (but not working) and foster children are exempt from copayments.
 - 3 This analysis reflects payment rates as of February 2019. 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.
 - 4 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
 - 5 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
 - 6 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.
 - 7 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.