



**NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER**

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FEBRUARY 2020 | FACT SHEET

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Idaho

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in Idaho could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$27,024 (127 percent of poverty, 49 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Idaho 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 Idaho paid \$50 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 \$150 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, Idaho'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.
 - Idaho's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Boise was \$650, which was \$50 (7 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.³
 - Idaho's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Boise was \$726, which was \$56 (7 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, Idaho did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, Idaho allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job.⁴ However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.

Source: Karen Schulman, 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** In February 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$31,170. 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.
- 2** Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) that are participating in activities other than work and foster children are exempt from copayments.
- 3** These rates apply to Boise and other counties in Cluster 2, which also includes Ada, Blaine, Bonner, Bonneville, Latah, Lewis, Teton, and Valley Counties.
- 4** 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.