



**NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER**

Justice for Her. Justice for All.

FEBRUARY 2020 | FACT SHEET

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Kansas

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in Kansas could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$38,448 (180 percent of poverty, 57 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Kansas 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 Kansas paid \$58 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 \$207 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, Kansas'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.
 - Kansas's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Sedgwick County was \$571, which was \$53 (8 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Kansas's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Sedgwick County was \$740, which was \$16 (2 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, Kansas did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, Kansas allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job.³ However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care 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.

-
- 1** In February 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$56,376. 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.
 - 2** Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (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 2018 federal poverty level (\$14,544 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2019.
 - 3** Parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.
 - 4** Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits 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.