



**NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER**

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FEBRUARY 2020 | FACT SHEET

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Louisiana

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in Louisiana could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$34,608 (162 percent of poverty, 55 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Louisiana had 3,596 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2019.²
- **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 Louisiana paid no copayment. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty (\$31,995 a year) receiving child care assistance paid \$65 per month, or 2 percent of its income, in copayments.³
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, Louisiana'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.
 - Louisiana's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$465,⁴ which was \$184 (28 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Louisiana's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$487,⁵ which was \$227 (32 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, Louisiana had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.⁶
 - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was 23 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, Louisiana allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while searching for a job until the end of their 12-month eligibility period. 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 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).
- 2 Families with parents participating in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) employment and training program, foster children, homeless families, children participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program, and children with special needs are served without being placed on the waiting list.
- 3 Families receiving TANF, foster children, homeless families, and families participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program are exempt from copayments.
- 4 The state has bonuses for higher-quality care; this monthly payment amount assumes that the provider is at the basic quality level, which is the most common level, and therefore does not receive a bonus.
- 5 This monthly payment amount assumes that the provider is at the basic quality level, which is the most common level.
- 6 For this analysis, bonuses for higher-quality care, which are paid quarterly, are considered as if incorporated into the monthly payment rate.
- 7 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.