



**NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
LAW CENTER**

Justice for Her. Justice for All.

FEBRUARY 2020 | FACT SHEET

**CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING**

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: Mississippi

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in Mississippi could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$43,685 (205 percent of poverty, 85 percent of state median income).
- **Waiting list:** Mississippi 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 Mississippi paid \$92 per month, or 5 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.<sup>1</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, Mississippi's payment rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were at the 75th percentile (the level designed to give families access to 75 percent of the providers in their community) of 2016 market rates.
  - Mississippi's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$440.<sup>2</sup>
  - Mississippi's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$480.<sup>3</sup>
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, Mississippi had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.<sup>4</sup>
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was 25 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 above the 75th percentile of 2016 market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, Mississippi allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 90 days while searching for a job.<sup>5</sup> However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.<sup>6</sup>

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** Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and homeless families with no countable income are exempt from copayments. Children receiving protective services, children participating in the home visitation program, children with special needs, and parents with a disability who are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits have a copayment of \$10 per month.
  - 2** The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
  - 3** This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
  - 4** This analysis reflects that the state established a tiered rate for centers meeting a new set of quality standards, designated as comprehensive centers, and began piloting the designation in 2019; however, no centers had yet qualified for the higher rate as of October 2019.
  - 5** Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 90-day period.
  - 6** Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF.