



**NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
LAW CENTER**

Justice for Her. Justice for All.

FEBRUARY 2020 | FACT SHEET

**CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING**

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: New York

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in New York could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$41,560 (195 percent of poverty, 54 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** In New York, there were waiting lists for child care assistance at the local district level as of February 2019.<sup>2</sup>
- **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 New York paid as much as \$16 per month, or 1 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 as much as \$327 per month, or 12 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>3</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, New York'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.<sup>4</sup>
  - New York's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in New York City was \$1,048,<sup>5</sup> which was \$69 (6 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - New York's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in New York City was \$1,606,<sup>6</sup> which was \$43 (3 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, New York allowed local social services districts to have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.<sup>7</sup>
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in New York City at the highest quality tier was 15 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in New York City at the highest quality tier was above the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, New York's local social services districts could choose to allow parents already receiving child care assistance to continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 2 weeks, or 4 weeks if child care arrangements would be lost if child care assistance was not continued.<sup>8</sup> Local districts could also choose to allow parents to initially qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 6 months if the district had funds available.<sup>9</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** As of June 2019, the income limit was increased to \$42,660 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level. Also note that a few small demonstration projects set the income limit at \$52,989 in 2019.
- 2** Waiting lists are kept at the local district level and statewide data are not available. Each local district also has the authority to freeze intake and stop adding names to its waiting list. Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), families eligible to receive TANF who need child care services for a child under age 13 in order to enable the parents to engage in work or participate in required work activities, and families who are transitioning off public assistance are served without being placed on the waiting list.
- 3** Local social services districts set copayments within a state-specified range; the copayments shown here reflect the maximum amount allowed in that range. Also note that families receiving TANF and participating in their required activity and homeless families are exempt from copayments. In addition, children receiving protective services, foster children, families receiving services to address domestic violence, and families participating in substance abuse treatment programs may be exempted from copayments on a case-by-case basis.
- 4** This analysis reflects payment rates as of February 2019. The state increased base payment rates from the 69th percentile of 2015 rates to the 69th percentile of 2017-18 market rates as of May 2019.
- 5** New York City has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 6** This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 7** Local social services districts may set payment rates for accredited programs that are up to 15 percent higher than base rates.
- 8** Local social services districts must allow parents receiving TANF to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 2 consecutive weeks while searching for a job, or up to 4 weeks if necessary for the family to maintain their child care arrangements. Local districts may allow other parents to continue receiving child care assistance during a break in their activities.
- 9** Child care assistance is only provided for the portion of the day a parent documents as directly related to seeking employment. Local districts may impose additional limitations on child care assistance for parents to search for a job.