



**NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
LAW CENTER**

Justice for Her. Justice for All.

FEBRUARY 2020 | FACT SHEET

**CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING**

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: Ohio

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in Ohio could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$27,014 (127 percent of poverty, 39 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** Ohio 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 Ohio paid \$127 per month, or 7 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 \$235 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, Ohio'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>3</sup>
  - Ohio's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Franklin County was \$637,<sup>4</sup> which was \$337 (35 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Ohio's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Franklin County was \$851,<sup>5</sup> which was \$383 (31 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, Ohio had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Franklin County at the highest quality tier was 40 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Franklin County at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, Ohio allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 13 weeks while searching for a job.<sup>6</sup> However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.<sup>7</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 In February 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$62,340. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$27,729 (130 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$63,990 (300 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.
- 2 Homeless families without a qualifying activity and families receiving protective child care services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level (\$20,780 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2019.
- 3 This analysis is based on payment rates as of February 2019. The state increased base payment rates to the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates (if not already at or above that level) as of July 2019.
- 4 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 5 This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 6 Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 weeks or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.
- 7 Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness or if they are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and have job search as an approved activity. Prior to October 2019, homeless families could receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days once within a 12-month period; as of October 2019, homeless families can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days multiple times within a 12-month period.