



**NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER**

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FEBRUARY 2020 | FACT SHEET

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Oregon

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in Oregon could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$38,496 (180 percent of poverty, 58 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Oregon 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 Oregon paid \$202 per month, or 11 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 \$523 per month, or 20 percent of its income, in copayments.²
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, Oregon's payment rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were at or above 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—for some categories of care, but below the 75th percentile for other categories.
 - Oregon's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Group Area A (Portland) was \$1,060,³ which was \$40 (4 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.⁴
 - Oregon's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Group Area A (Portland) was \$1,415,⁵ which was \$40 (3 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, Oregon had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
 - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Group Area A (Portland) at the highest quality tier was 8 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
 - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Group Area A (Portland) at the highest quality tier was above the 75th percentile of current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, Oregon allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for up to 3 months while searching for a job.⁶ However, the state did not allow parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.

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 \$52,860. As of March 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$39,456 (185 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$58,164 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.
- 2** Families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and with a working parent, families with a parent searching for a job following the loss of employment or with an unemployed parent who has moved into the home, and families who qualify for a six-month military transition period are exempt from copayments.
- 3** The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 4** Group Area A includes the Ashland, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Monmouth, and Portland areas.
- 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 3 months even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 3-month period. Parents can continue receiving assistance for longer than 3 months after the loss of a job if they provide verification from an employer of the date they expect to return to work.