



**NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER**

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FEBRUARY 2020 | FACT SHEET

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Virginia

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, Virginia had four different regional income limits for a family of three to qualify for child care assistance, ranging from \$31,176 per year (146 percent of poverty, 38 percent of state median income) to \$51,960 per year (244 percent of poverty, 64 percent of state median income).¹
- **Waiting list:** Virginia had 7,053 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 Virginia paid \$106 per month, or 6 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 \$213 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.³
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, Virginia'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.
 - Virginia's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old in Fairfax County was \$1,516, which was \$43 (3 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
 - Virginia's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old in Fairfax County was \$1,775, which was \$43 (2 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, Virginia did not have higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, Virginia 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.⁴

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, the state had four different income limits for different regions of the state: \$31,176, \$33,252, \$38,448, and \$51,960. Also note that in 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so, in all regions of the state, until their income reached \$69,120 (85 percent of state median income). As of October 2019, the regional income limits to qualify for assistance were increased to \$32,004 (150 percent of poverty), \$34,128 (160 percent of poverty), \$39,468 (185 percent of poverty), and \$53,328 (250 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.
- 2** Families receiving or transitioning from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and families participating in the TANF work program are served without being placed on the waiting list.
- 3** Families eligible for TANF and families enrolled in Head Start, or participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training program, whose income is at or below poverty are exempt from copayments.
- 4** Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are participating in the TANF work program.