



**NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
LAW CENTER**

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**CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING**

## State Child Care Assistance Policies: West Virginia

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2019, a family of three in West Virginia could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to \$31,176 (146 percent of poverty, 53 percent of state median income).<sup>1</sup>
- **Waiting list:** West Virginia 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 West Virginia paid \$81 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 \$124 per month, or 5 percent of its income, in copayments.<sup>2</sup>
- **Payment rates:** In 2019, West 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.
  - West Virginia's monthly payment rate for center care for a four-year-old was \$606,<sup>3</sup> which was \$43 (7 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - West Virginia's monthly payment rate for center care for a one-year-old was \$693,<sup>4</sup> which was \$54 (7 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
- **Tiered payment rates:** In 2019, West Virginia had higher payment rates for higher-quality care.
  - The payment rate for center care for a four-year-old at the highest quality tier was 14 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 current market rates.
- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2019, West Virginia allowed parents to initially qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while searching for a job, and allowed parents already receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while searching for a job, for up to 3 months.<sup>5</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.

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- 1** In February 2019, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$38,448. As of October 2019, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$31,992 (150 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$39,456 (185 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2019 federal poverty level.
- 2** Foster families and families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 40 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level (\$8,316 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2019.
- 3** The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 4** This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.
- 5** Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months (for up to 8 hours per day, 5 days per week) even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 3-month period.