MAY 2022

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AT THE CROSSROADS: STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES 2021

by KAREN SCHULMAN

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fights for gender justice—in the courts, in public policy, and in society—working across the issues that are central to the lives of women and girls. NWLC uses the law in all its forms to change culture and drive solutions to the gender inequity that shapes society and to break down the barriers that harm everyone—especially those who face multiple forms of discrimination, including women of color, LGBTQ people, and low-income women and families. For nearly 50 years, the organization has been on the leading edge of every major legal and policy victory for women.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author thanks Melissa Boteach, NWLC's Vice President for Income Security and Child Care/Early Learning, for her input on this report, and Beth Stover, NWLC's Art Director, and Andres de la Roche for designing the report.

The author is also very grateful to the state child care administrators who provided the information on their states' policies included in this report.

This report would not have been possible without the generous support of the Alliance for Early Success, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Ballmer Group, Heising-Simons Foundation, Imaginable Futures, Irving Harris Foundation, Pivotal Ventures, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Spring Point Partners.

The findings and conclusions of this report are those of the author alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of these funders.

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INTRODUCTION

Child care is crucial for the well-being of parents, children, and our nation. It enables parents to work and support their families, or obtain education or training to get a better, more stable job. It gives children a safe, nurturing environment to learn and develop skills they need to succeed in school and in life.[1] By bolstering the current and future workforce, it serves as the backbone of our nation's economy. The importance of child care has become clearer than ever during the COVID crisis. Yet, the pandemic has also illustrated—and exacerbated—the fragility of our child care system.

Many families, particularly low-income families,[2] struggle with the high price of child care. The average annual fee for full-time care ranges from over $3,900 to $22,500, depending on the age of the child, the type of care, and where the family lives.[3] These costs can strain families' budgets, force parents to use lower-cost care even if they would prefer other options for their children, or prevent parents from working because they cannot afford care. At the same time, child care workers—who are predominantly women and disproportionately women of color—are paid poverty-level wages. The median wage for child care workers is just $13.22 per hour,[4] and Black and Latina child care workers typically earn even less than their white peers.[5] Solving this dilemma—in a way that relieves the burdens on both families and child care workers—requires significant additional public investment. New investments would make it possible to expand families' access to affordable, stable, nurturing child care and raise compensation for child care workers.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the major federal child care assistance program, provides some support for families needing child care and for child care programs and providers. However, due to inadequate funding, there are significant gaps in child care assistance policies, which are set by states within federal parameters. To assess the status of state child care assistance policies—where the gaps are, where progress is being made, and where further progress is needed—this report examines states' policies in five key areas. These key areas include: income eligibility limits to qualify for child care assistance, waiting lists for child care assistance, copayments required of parents receiving child care assistance, payment rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance, and eligibility for child care assistance for parents searching for a job. These policies are fundamental to determining families' ability to obtain child care assistance and the extent of help that assistance provides.

This analysis of policies as of February 2021 illustrates the persistent gaps in our child care assistance system that leave families and child care providers without the support they need—support that is critical during the pandemic, but also critical at any time. While many states, with the support of federal child care relief funds, took some steps forward on their child care assistance policies between February 2020 and February 2021, most states' policies remain inadequate. As a result, far too many low- and moderate-income families cannot qualify for child care assistance due to restrictive income limits, far too many eligible families cannot receive assistance due to long waiting lists, far too many families able to receive assistance still have significant cost burdens due to high copayments, and far too many child care programs are deprived of the resources needed to fairly compensate child care workers and offer high-quality care.

The gaps in child care assistance policies stem from insufficient funding for child care.

While temporary relief funding for child care approved in March and December 2020 and March 2021 are helping programs to survive the COVID crisis, it is also necessary to make a long-term investment in addressing these gaps that pre-dated the crisis and in building a stronger child care system. Significant new ongoing funding will be crucial to ensure that families have equitable access to high-quality child care and that child care workers are adequately compensated for their essential work.

FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE IN 2021, 2020, AND 2001

CCDBG funding—excluding supplemental funding measures approved in 2020 and 2021—totaled $8.828 billion in FY 2021,[6] a slight increase from $8.743 billion in FY 2020[7] ($9.005 billion in FY 2021 dollars).[8] Due to a series of increases in discretionary funding in the preceding few years, most notably a $2.37 billion increase in FY 2018,[9] CCDBG funding in FY 2021 exceeded the funding level in FY 2010, when the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)[10] temporarily boosted funding; CCDBG funding in FY 2010 was $6.044 billion before adjusting for inflation,[11] or $7.734 billion in FY 2021 dollars.[12] CCDBG funding in FY 2021 was also above the FY 2002 funding level after adjusting for inflation—$7.519 billion in FY 2021 dollars[13]—which was the peak funding level prior to ARRA.

Another important source of child care funding is the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. States may transfer up to 30 percent of their TANF block grant funds to CCDBG, or use TANF funds directly for child care without first transferring the money. States' use of TANF dollars for child care (including both transfers and direct funding) was $2.844 billion in FY 2020 (the most recent year for which data are available),[14] below the high of $3.966 billion in FY 2000[15] even without adjusting for inflation. (In FY 2021 dollars, use of TANF funds for child care was $2.929 billion in FY 2020 compared to $6.568 billion in FY 2000.[16])

Total federal child care funding in FY 2021 from CCDBG and TANF funds (assuming the use of TANF in FY 2021 was the same as the FY 2020 inflation-adjusted amount), was $11.757 billion (not including supplemental funding). This amount remained below total funding in FY 2001 after adjusting for inflation—$12.973 billion in FY 2021 dollars.[17]

However, child care funding in FY 2020 and FY 2021 was significantly boosted by substantial supplementary funding provided in response to the pandemic:

- ***The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act***, signed into law on March 27, 2020, appropriated an additional $3.5 billion in supplemental child care discretionary funds.[18]

- ***The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act***, signed into law on December 27, 2020, included $10 billion in supplemental child care discretionary funding.[19]

- ***The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)***, signed into law on March 11, 2021, included $14.99 billion in supplemental child care discretionary funds and $23.975 billion for child care stabilization grants, and increased annual mandatory child care funding by $3.55 billion.[20]

While these relief measures provided historic increases in child care funding, all of the funding, except the mandatory funding increase included in ARPA, is temporary—and so too could be any policy improvements supported by that funding.

(Note that the policies from February 2020 analyzed in this report do not reflect the impact of any of the supplemental funding measures, because they were enacted starting in March 2020, and the policies from February 2021 analyzed in this report do not reflect the impact of ARPA, because it was enacted in March 2021.)

SUMMARY OF KEY POLICIES AS OF FEBRUARY 2021 AND CHANGES SINCE 2020 AND 2001

Changes in states' policies between February 2020 and February 2021 and between 2001 and February 2021 are described in more detail below, but in summary:

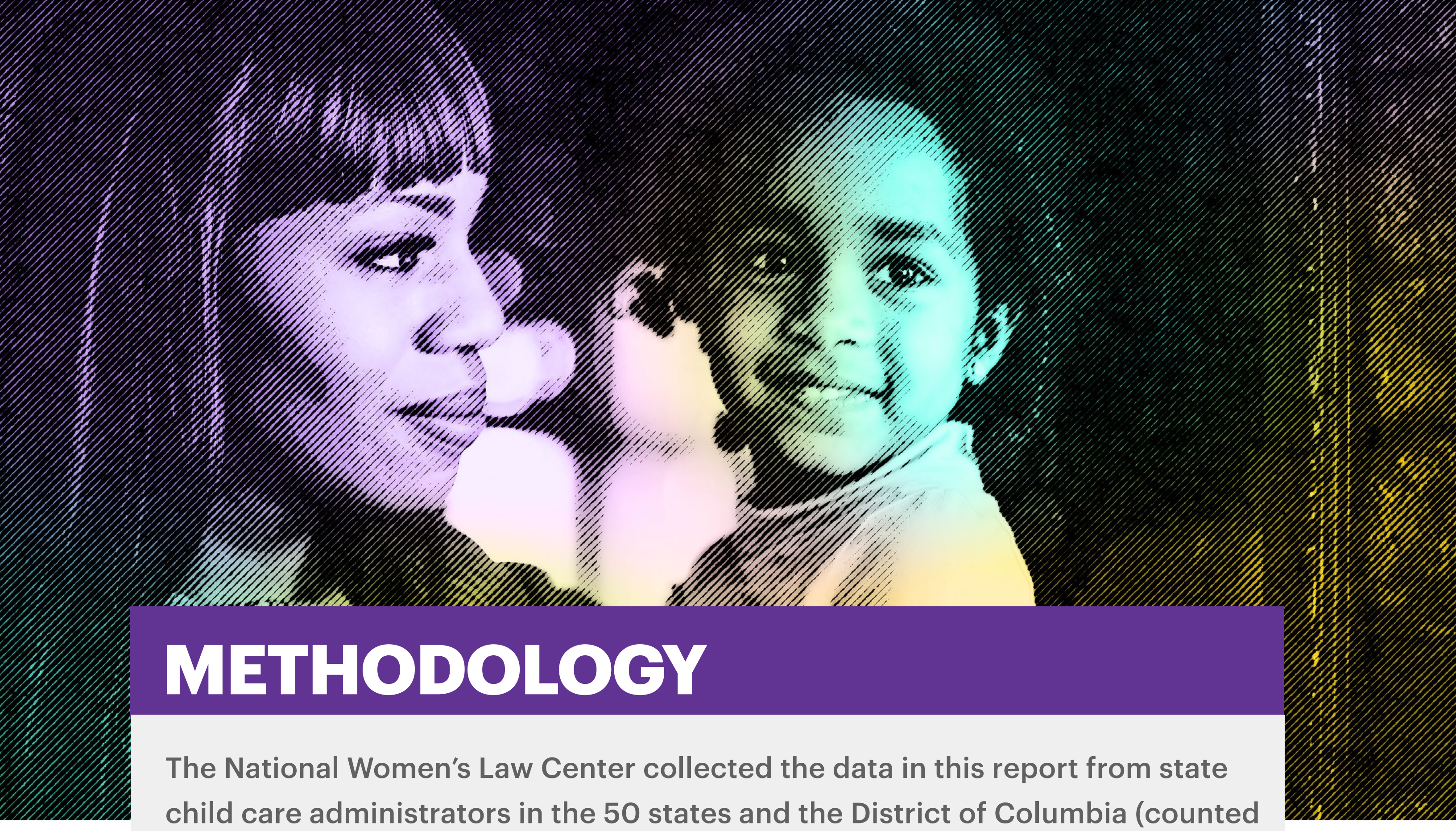
Income eligibility limits reveal how generous a state is in determining whether families qualify for child care assistance.[21] In 2021, a family with an income above 150 percent of poverty ($32,940 a year for a family of three) could not qualify for child care assistance in 12 states. Between 2020 and 2021, four states increased their income limits for child care assistance by a dollar amount that exceeded inflation; 41 states increased their income limits as a dollar amount to adjust for inflation, as measured against the change in the state median income or federal poverty level;[22] and six states kept their income limits the same as a dollar amount. Between 2001 and 2021, income limits declined as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 16 states.[23]

Waiting lists help reveal whether families who qualify for child care assistance actually receive it. Thirteen states had waiting lists or frozen intake for child care assistance in 2021, the same number of states as in 2020 and lower than the 21 states in 2001. In 2021, there were over 30,000 fewer children on waiting lists than in 2020, and nearly 135,000 fewer children on waiting lists than in 2001.

Parent copayment levels reveal whether low-income parents receiving child care assistance have significant out-of-pocket costs for child care. The nationwide average amount that families who pay for child care spend on child care is approximately 7 percent of income, but in 2021, copayments for families receiving child care assistance were higher than 7 percent of income for a family at 150 percent of poverty in 18 states, and for a family at 100 percent of poverty in seven states. For a family at 150 percent of poverty, copayments as a percentage of income decreased in 18 states, increased in one state, and stayed the same in the remaining states between 2020 and 2021. For a family at 100 percent of poverty, copayments as a percentage of income decreased in 14 states, increased in one state, and stayed the same in the remaining states between 2020 and 2021. Yet, in nearly one-quarter to one-third of the states, depending on family income, families paid a higher percentage of their income in copayments in 2021 than in 2001.

Provider payment rates reveal the extent to which families receiving child care assistance may be limited in their choice of child care providers and providers serving families receiving assistance may be limited in the quality of care they can offer to families. Twenty-one states increased at least some of their payment rates for providers serving families receiving child care assistance between 2020 and 2021. Yet only two states had all of their base payment rates at the federally recommended level in 2021, only slightly above the one state with rates at the recommended level in 2020, and much lower than the 22 states with rates at the recommended level in 2001. Forty-three states had higher payment rates for higher-quality care (tiered rates) in 2021—the same number of states as in 2020.[24] However, in half of these states, even the higher rates were below the federally recommended level in 2021.

Eligibility policies for parents searching for work reveal whether families can receive child care assistance while a parent seeks employment, so that a child's care arrangement is not disrupted and the family has child care available as soon as the parent finds a job. Fifty states allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job in 2021, the same number of states as in 2020. Fourteen states allowed families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2021, an increase from 11 states in 2020.[25]



METHODOLOGY

The National Women's Law Center collected the data in this report from state child care administrators in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (counted as a state in this report).

NWLC sent the state child care administrators a survey in the fall of 2021 requesting data on policies as of February 2021 in five key areas—income eligibility limits, waiting lists, parent copayments, provider payment rates, and eligibility for child care assistance for parents searching for a job. The survey also asked state administrators to report on any policy changes that the state had made or expected to make after February 2021 in each of the five areas. The survey questions about these policy areas were largely the same as in surveys of state administrators conducted by NWLC in previous years. The survey also asked states to report on uses of the new ARPA child care funding; this information will be analyzed separately. NWLC staff contacted state administrators for follow-up information as necessary. NWLC obtained supplementary information about states' policies from documents available on state agencies' websites.

NWLC collected the 2020 data used in this report for comparison purposes through a similar process and analyzed these data in NWLC's May 2021 report, *On the Precipice: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2020*. The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) collected the 2001 data used in this report and analyzed these data in CDF's report, *State Developments in Child Care, Early Education and School-Age Care 2001*. CDF staff collected the data through surveys and interviews with state child care advocates and verified the data with state child care administrators. The CDF data reflect policies in effect as of June 1, 2001, unless otherwise indicated. NWLC uses 2001 as a basis for comparison because it was the year between the peak year for TANF funding for child care, FY 2000, and what was the peak year for CCDBG funding, FY 2002, prior to FY 2010, when ARRA provided a temporary boost in CCDBG funding, and FY 2021, when COVID relief and recovery funding provided a temporary boost (see the section above on funding for child care assistance).

INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS

A family's access to child care assistance depends on a state's income eligibility limit. The family's ability to obtain child care assistance is affected not only by a state's income limit in a given year, but also by whether the state adjusts the limit for inflation each year so that the family does not become ineligible for assistance simply because its income keeps pace with inflation.

Between 2020 and 2021, 45 states increased their income eligibility limits as a dollar amount by enough to keep pace with or exceed inflation, as measured against the change in the federal poverty level or state median income, depending on which benchmark the state used.[26] However, six states did not increase their income limits as a dollar amount. Between 2001 and 2021, nearly all states increased their income limits as a dollar amount; yet, almost one-third of the states failed to increase their income limits sufficiently to keep pace with inflation, as measured against the change in the federal poverty level,[27] or reduced their income limits as a dollar amount. In addition, approximately three-fifths of the states had income limits at or below 200 percent of poverty in 2021.

Four states increased their income eligibility limits by a dollar amount that exceeded inflation between 2020 and 2021 (*see Table 1a*).[28]

Forty-one states increased their income eligibility limits as a dollar amount to adjust for inflation between 2020 and 2021, including 35 states that adjusted for one year of inflation,[29] as well as six states that adjusted for multiple years of inflation to make up for previous years in which they had not adjusted for inflation.[30]

Six states kept their income eligibility limits the same as a dollar amount between 2020 and 2021.[31]

No state lowered its income eligibility limit as a dollar amount between 2020 and 2021.

Fifty states increased their income eligibility limits as a dollar amount between 2001 and 2021 (see *Table 1b*). In 23 of these states, the increase was great enough that the income limit was higher as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 2021 than in 2001. In 12 of these states, the increase was great enough that the income limit stayed the same, or nearly the same, as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 2021 as in 2001.[32] However, in 15 of these states, the increase was not sufficient to keep pace with the federal poverty level, so the income limit was lower as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 2021 than in 2001.

One state lowered its income eligibility limit as a dollar amount between 2001 and 2021. In this state, the income limit decreased as a percentage of the federal poverty level, bringing to 16 the total number of states in which the income limit failed to keep pace with the increase in the federal poverty level between 2001 and 2021.

A family with an income above 100 percent of the federal poverty level ($21,960 a year for a family of three in 2021) could qualify for child care assistance in all states in 2021. However, a family with an income above 150 percent of poverty ($32,940 a year for a family of three in 2021) could not qualify for assistance in 12 states. A family with an income above 200 percent of poverty ($43,920 a year for a family of three in 2021) could not qualify for assistance in a total of 30 states. Yet, in every county and city across the country, a family needs an income above 200 percent of poverty to adequately afford their basic needs, including housing, food, child care, transportation, health care, and other necessities, according to data from the Economic Policy Institute.[33]

Twelve states did not allow a family with an income above 150 percent of poverty ($32,940 a year for a family of three) to qualify for assistance in 2021: Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, and West Virginia.

WAITING LISTS

Even if families are eligible for child care assistance, and apply for it, they may not necessarily receive it. Instead, their state may place eligible families who apply for help on a waiting list or freeze intake (turn away eligible families without adding their names to a waiting list). Families may remain on the waiting list for a long time before receiving child care assistance, or may never receive it. Without the help they need to afford child care, families on the waiting list must make painful choices.

According to several studies,[34] many of these families struggle to pay for reliable, good-quality child care while paying for other basic necessities such as food and rent, or turn to low-cost—and frequently low-quality—care. Some families simply cannot afford child care at all, which can make it impossible for parents to work.

In 2021, nearly three-quarters of the states were able to serve eligible families who applied for child care assistance without placing any on waiting lists or freezing intake, but approximately one-quarter of the states had waiting lists or frozen intake for at least some families applying for assistance. The number of states with waiting lists or frozen intake in 2021 was equal to the number in 2020 and lower than in 2001. The total number of children on waiting lists in 2021 was lower than in 2020 or 2001.[35]

Thirteen states had waiting lists or frozen intake in 2021, the same number of states as in 2020,[36] and below the 21 states with waiting lists in 2001 (*see Table 2*).

Over 30,000 fewer children were on waiting lists in 2021 than in 2020—a decrease of 31 percent (from over 98,000 children). Nearly 135,000 fewer children were on waiting lists in 2021 than in 2001—a decrease of 66 percent (from nearly 203,000 children).[37]

Of the 13 states that had waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2020 and 2021, eight states had shorter waiting lists in 2021 than in 2020, and two states had longer waiting lists. In the remaining three states with waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2020 and 2021, it was not possible to compare the length of waiting lists based on the available data.

Of the 12 states that had waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2001 and 2021, seven states had shorter waiting lists in 2021 than in 2001. In the remaining five states with waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2001 and 2021, it was not possible to compare the length of waiting lists based on the available data.

Thirteen states had waiting lists, or had frozen intake for all families but certain priority groups, in 2021: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia.

COPAYMENTS

Most states require families receiving child care assistance to contribute toward their child care costs based on a sliding fee scale that is designed to charge progressively higher copayments to families at progressively higher income levels.

A few states also take into account the cost of care used by a family in determining the amount of the family's copayment. Copayment levels matter because if they are high, they can place a serious financial burden on families or may discourage families from participating in the child care assistance program.

This report analyzes state copayment policies by considering two hypothetical families: a family of three with an income at 100 percent of the federal poverty level and a family of three with an income at 150 percent of the federal poverty level.[38] Many states reduced or waived copayments between 2020 and 2021 as part of their efforts to lessen burdens for families during the pandemic emergency, with the help of federal child care relief funds. In approximately one-quarter to one-third of the states, depending on income, families paid a lower percentage of their income in copayments in 2021 than in 2020. Yet, in many cases, these copayments were reduced or waived only temporarily and will likely revert to previous levels without new funding.

Despite some progress, copayments remained high in many states in 2021. Current CCDBG regulations recommend that copayments charged to parents receiving child care assistance not exceed 7 percent of their income.[39] This benchmark is based on Census data showing that, nationwide, families who pay for child care (including those who receive child care assistance and those who do not) spend an average of approximately 7 percent of their income on child care.[40] But many states fail to meet this benchmark. In over one-third of the states, a family at 150 percent of poverty that was receiving child care assistance was required to pay more than 7 percent of its income in copayments in 2021.

In 18 states, copayments for a family of three at 150 percent of poverty[41] **decreased** as a percentage of income between 2020 and 2021 (*see Table 3a*). In 31 states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In one state, copayments increased as a percentage of income. In one state, a family at 150 percent of poverty was not eligible for child care assistance in 2020 or 2021.[42]

In 29 states, copayments for a family of three at 150 percent of poverty[43] **decreased** as a percentage of income between 2001 and 2021. In eight states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In 11 states, copayments increased as a percentage of income. In two states, a family at 150 percent of poverty was eligible for child care assistance in 2021 but not 2001, and in one state, a family at 150 percent of poverty was not eligible for child care assistance in either 2021 or 2001.

In 14 states, copayments for a family of three at 100 percent of poverty decreased as a percentage of income between 2020 and 2021 (*see Table 3b*). In 36 states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In one state, copayments increased as a percentage of income.

In 25 states, copayments for a family of three at 100 percent of poverty decreased as a percentage of income between 2001 and 2021. In 10 states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In 16 states, copayments increased as a percentage of income.

In 18 states, the copayment for a family of three at 150 percent of poverty was above $192 per month (7 percent of income) in 2021. This includes six states where the copayment for a family at this income level was $275 per month (10 percent of income) or higher.

In seven states, the copayment for a family of three at 100 percent of poverty was above $128 per month (7 percent of income) in 2021. This includes two states where the copayment for a family at this income level was $183 per month (10 percent of income) or higher.

PROVIDER PAYMENT RATES

States set payment rates for child care providers who care for children receiving child care assistance. The payment rate is a ceiling on the amount the state will pay providers, and a provider will be paid at that rate if the fee the provider charges to parents who pay out of their own pocket (private-paying parents) is equal to or greater than the rate. If a provider charges private-paying parents a fee that is below the payment rate, the state will typically pay the provider an amount equal to the private-pay fee. Payment rates may vary by geographic region, age of the child, type of care, and other factors.

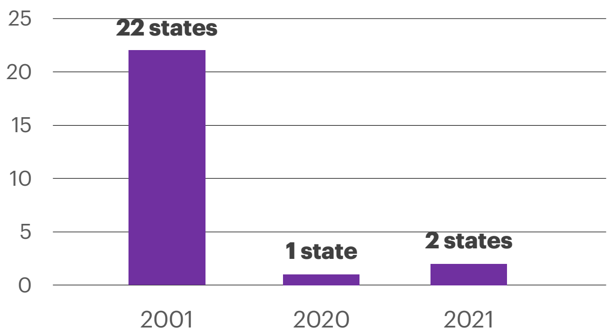
Payment rates help determine whether child care providers have the resources to support salaries and benefits that are sufficient to attract, retain, and offer financial security to child care workers; low child-staff ratios that enable children to receive one-on-one attention; facilities that are safe and suited to children's needs; and materials and supplies for activities that encourage children's learning and development. Inadequate payment rates can discourage high-quality providers from enrolling families who receive child care assistance. Providers that do enroll these families can be deprived of the resources needed to offer high-quality care to children and fair compensation to child care workers—and these providers can sometimes find it impossible to even keep their doors open.

Two-fifths of the states increased their payment rates between 2020 and 2021. Still, in 2021, all but a few states failed to set their payment rates at the federally recommended level—the 75th percentile of current market rates,[44] a rate that is designed to allow families access to 75 percent of the providers in their communities. This federal benchmark itself is insufficient, since it is tied to a broken market that does not reflect the true cost of offering high-quality care provided by well-compensated teachers and staff. Yet, most states do not even meet this insufficient benchmark. Just two states set their payment rates at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates in 2021,[45] only a slight increase from the one state that did so in 2020, and far below the 22 states that did so in 2001.[46]

In 2021, the remaining 49 states set their payment rates below the 75th percentile of current market rates, including many states that set their rates significantly below the 75th percentile.

Two states set their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates (rates from 2019 or 2020) in 2021 (*see Table 4a*),[47] slightly higher than the one state that set its payment rates at this level in 2020, but significantly lower than the 22 states that set their payment rates at this level in 2001 (*see Table 4b*).

Number of States with Provider Payment Rates at the 75th Percentile of Current Market Rates



Thirty-six states increased at least some of their payment rates between 2019 and 2021,[48] including 21 states that increased their rates between 2020 and 2021.[49] No state reduced its rates between 2019 and 2021. The remaining 15 states did not update their payment rates between 2019 and 2021. All states updated their payment rates between 2001 and 2021.

- **Among states that increased their base payment rates for center care for a four-year-old** between 2020 and 2021, the average increase was $150 per month per child (*see Table 4c*).
- **Among states that increased their base payment rates for center care for a one-year-old** between 2020 and 2021, the average increase was $196 per month per child.

In 14 states, payment rates for center care for a four-year-old in 2021 were at least 20 percent below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data) for this type of care (*see Table 4d*).[50]

In eight states, payment rates for center care for a one-year-old in 2021 were at least 20 percent below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data) for this type of care.

In 12 states, payment rates for center care for a four-year-old in 2021 were at least $200 per month below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data) for this type of care. With a gap of $200 per month per child, a classroom of 20 four-year-olds receiving child care assistance would get $48,000 less per year than it would if the payment rate was at the recommended level.

In 15 states, payment rates for center care for a one-year-old in 2021 were at least $200 per month below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data) for this type of care.

Two states set their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates in 2021: Hawaii and South Dakota.

Forty-three states had higher payment rates (tiered rates) for child care providers that met higher-quality standards in 2021,[51] the same number of states as in 2020.[52] Some states had a single higher payment rate; other states had progressively higher payment rates for progressively higher levels of quality. Tiered payment rates can offer child care providers incentives and support to improve the quality of their care.

However, it is important for the differential to be large enough to cover the additional costs entailed in raising quality sufficiently to qualify for a higher rate. These costs include expenses for additional staff to reduce child-staff ratios, increased salaries for teachers with advanced education in early childhood development, teacher training and professional development, facilities upgrades, and/or new equipment and materials. Yet, in half of states with tiered rates, the highest rate fell below the 75th percentile of current market rates. And in one-third of the states with tiered rates, the highest payment rate was less than 20 percent above the base rate.

Forty-three states paid higher rates for higher-quality care in 2021, equal to the number of states in 2020 (*see Table 4e*).[53] While most of these states had tiered rates that applied across different age groups, one state only paid tiered rates for providers caring for children from two years of age to kindergarten entry[54] and one state only paid tiered rates for providers caring for children up to 2.9 years of age.[55]

Seven of the 43 states with tiered rates in 2021 had two rate levels (including the base level),[56] seven states had three levels, 16 states had four levels, eight states had five levels, two states had six levels, two states had seven levels, and one state had eight levels.[57]

In half of the 42 states with tiered rates for center care for a four-year-old in 2021, the payment rate for this type of care at the highest quality level was below the 75th percentile of current market rates (which includes providers at all levels of quality) for this type of care.[58]

- **In 21 of the 42 states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was below the 75th percentile of market rates** (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data).[59] In five of these states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was at least 20 percent below the 75th percentile.
- **In three of the 42 states, the payment rate at the highest quality level** was equal or nearly equal to the 75th percentile of market rates.
- **In 18 of the 42 states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was above the 75th percentile of market rates.** In eight of these states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was at least 10 percent above the 75th percentile.

Among the 42 states with tiered rates for center care for a four-year-old, the difference between a state's lowest rate and highest rate for this type of care ranged from 5 percent to 117 percent in 2021.[60] The difference between a state's lowest and highest rates was not consistently related to whether the state's highest rate was above or below the 75th percentile of market rates (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data).

- **In three of the 42 states, the highest rate was 5 percent to 9 percent greater than the lowest rate.** In two of these three states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.

- **In 11 of the 42 states, the highest rate was 10 percent to 19 percent greater than the lowest rate.** In seven of these 11 states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.

- **In 15 of the 42 states, the highest rate was 20 percent to 29 percent greater than the lowest rate**. In five of these 15 states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.

- **In 13 of the 42 states, the highest rate was at least 30 percent greater than the lowest rate.** In seven of these 13 states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.

In three states, the percentage differential between the lowest and highest rates for center care for a four-year-old was greater in 2021 than in 2020.[61] In three states, the percentage differential between the lowest and highest rates was smaller in 2021 than in 2020;[62] in these three states, the highest rate increased between 2020 and 2021, but so did the lowest rate. In the remaining 35 states with tiered rates for center care for a four-year-old in both years, the differential between the lowest and highest rates was the same in 2021 as in 2020.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FAMILIES WITH PARENTS SEARCHING FOR A JOB

Child care assistance can help parents get or keep the child care they need while searching for an initial job or a new job. Parents can more readily start work if they can make their child care arrangements before they find a job rather than having to wait until after they find a job to make those arrangements. In addition, children can have greater stability if they can remain in the same child care arrangement without disruption when a parent loses one job and is searching for another job.

The CCDBG Act of 2014, which reauthorized (renewed and updated) the program, requires states to allow families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for at least three months while a parent searches for a job.[63] States had until at least September 30, 2016, to implement this provision,[64] and some states received waivers allowing them additional time beyond that to implement the provision.[65] Neither the law nor the federal regulations require states to allow families to qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while a parent searches for a job.

In 2021, 50 states allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it for at least some amount of time while a parent searched for a job, the same number of states as in 2020. Forty-nine of these states allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to three months, six months, or the end of their eligibility period—policies that are consistent with the requirements of the CCDBG Act of 2014. The remaining two states that were not in compliance with the requirements in February 2021 have since come into compliance.

Only 14 states allowed families to qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2021, a small increase from 11 states in 2020.[66]

- **Thirty-four states allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance** while a parent searched for a job for up to three months or the equivalent (90 or 92 days, or 12 or 13 weeks) in 2021.[67]

Forty-nine states allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job for up to three months (or an equivalent amount of time), six months (or an equivalent amount of time), or the end of their eligibility period in 2021, the same number of states as in 2020 (*see Table 5*). Four of these states increased the length of time they allowed families to continue receiving assistance while a parent searched for a job between 2020 and 2021.

- **Twelve states allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance** while a parent searched for a job until the end of the family's 12-month eligibility period in 2021. One of these states changed its policies from allowing parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to three months in 2020.

- **Two states allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance** while a parent searched for a job for up to 26 weeks in 2021. One of these states increased the length of time parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job from 16 weeks, and one of these states increased the length of time parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job from 12 weeks, in 2020.

- **One state allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance** while a parent searched for a job for up to six months in 2021. This state increased the length of time parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job from 90 days in 2020.

One state allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job in 2021, but did not allow parents sufficient time to continue receiving assistance while searching for a job to comply with the CCDBG Act of 2014. This state allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to only 30 days in 2021, the same as in 2020.

One state permitted localities to determine whether families receiving child care assistance could continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job in 2021, the same as in 2020. Localities in this state could allow families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to six months (if funds were available).

Fourteen states allowed families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2021, an increase from 11 states in 2020.

- **One state allowed families** to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 12 months in 2021, the same as in 2020.

- **One state allowed families** to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 26 weeks in 2021. This state increased the length of time a parent could qualify to receive assistance while searching for a job from 12 weeks in 2020.

- **Eight states allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance** while a parent searched for a job for up to three months or the equivalent (90 or 92 days or 13 weeks) in 2021. One of these states had allowed localities to determine whether a parent could qualify to receive child care assistance while searching for a job, and two of these states had not allowed parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job, in 2020. One state that had allowed parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to three months in 2020 did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job in 2021.

- **Among the remaining four states that allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance** while a parent searched for a job, the time limit ranged from 150 hours to 60 days in 2021. One of these states had not allowed parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job in 2020.

One state allowed families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 60 days, if the parent lost their previous job due to COVID, in 2021. This state had not allowed parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job in 2020.

One state permitted localities to determine whether families not receiving child care assistance could qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2021, a decrease from two states that did so in 2020.

Thirty-five states did not allow families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2021, a decrease from 38 states in 2020.

LOOKING AHEAD: POLICY CHANGES SINCE FEBRUARY 2021

Although this report primarily focuses on changes between February 2020 and February 2021, states reported on some changes they made after February 2021. According to preliminary information, at least 44 states made improvements in one or more of the policies covered in this report after February 2021.[68] Yet many of these changes are temporary and will likely be reversed when temporary child care relief funding runs out. States will only be able to sustain—and build on—the progress they have made with substantial new, permanent child care funding.

AFTER FEBRUARY 2021:

- **At least 15 states increased their income eligibility limits** to qualify for child care assistance, beyond inflation.[69]
- **At least 20 states reduced or waived copayments** for many or all families receiving child care assistance.[70]
- **At least 35 states increased payment rates for some or all categories of child care providers** serving families receiving child care assistance.[71]
- **At least 12 states increased the amount of time families could continue receiving child care assistance** while a parent searched for a job and/or began allowing families to initially qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job.[72]

CONCLUSION

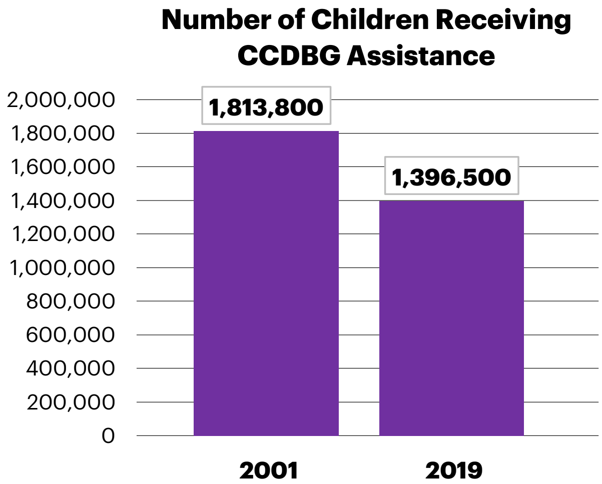
Forty states made at least small improvements in one or more key child care assistance policies covered in this report—compared to five states that had cuts—between February 2020 and February 2021.

These states with improved policies increased income limits beyond inflation adjustments, reduced or eliminated waiting lists, lowered copayments as a percentage of family income, increased provider payment rates, increased the amount of time families could continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job, and/or began allowing families to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job (*see box below*). Yet most of these policy improvements were modest and did not close the large gaps in child care assistance policies that deprive children, families, and child care workers of the support they need. As of February 2021, too many states had low income limits, long waiting lists, high copayments, and/or inadequate payment rates that left families without any access to child care assistance, without enough assistance to make their child care expenses manageable, or without sufficient assistance to choose their preferred child care option—and that left child care programs without enough resources to adequately compensate their workers.

Even the progress that was made is very fragile, since policy changes were often temporary, supported with temporary funding. If additional funding is not provided before the temporary federal relief funding runs out, remaining gaps in state policies will not only fail to close—they will start to widen once again.

The gaps in our child care assistance system are illustrated not only by data on state policies but also by data on the number of children receiving—and not receiving—child care assistance. Many families who are eligible for child care assistance under federal eligibility criteria do not receive assistance because they are turned away by state eligibility criteria that are more restrictive than federal criteria, are placed on waiting lists, are discouraged from applying for assistance by long waiting lists, or do not even know assistance is available. Only one in seven children eligible for child care assistance under federal law received it in 2018 (the most recent year for which data are available).[73] And the number of children receiving child care assistance through CCDBG declined by over 417,000 between 2001 and 2019 (the most recent year for which these data are available).[74]

Our child care system was brought to the brink by the COVID crisis, and continues to struggle to recover. The child care system was vulnerable because it was under tremendous strain even prior to the pandemic. While the over $50 billion provided for child care through CARES,



CRRSA, and ARPA has helped providers and the families they serve survive the crisis, it is essential to provide significant new permanent funding to fix the problems that predated the crisis. It is not enough to return our child care system to the precarious condition it was prior to the pandemic. We must make the investments necessary to ensure that high-quality child care is affordable and equitably available for families and that fair compensation is provided to the child care workforce. With a strong, well-funded child care system, our children can grow and learn, parents can work, and our economy can thrive.

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS IN KEY STATE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE POLICIES

FEBRUARY 2020 TO FEBRUARY 2021

Ten states increased their income eligibility limits to qualify for child care assistance by more than a one-year adjustment for inflation: Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Wisconsin.

Eight states reduced the number of children and families on their waiting lists for child care assistance: Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia.

Twenty states reduced copayments for child care assistance, as percentage of income, for families with incomes at 100 percent and/or families with incomes at 150 percent of poverty: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington.

Twenty-three states increased at least some of their base and/or tiered payment rates for child care providers, or introduced new tiered rates: Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

Eight states increased the amount of time families could continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job, and/or began allowing families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job: Alabama, Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

ENDNOTES

1 Research demonstrates the important role that high-quality child care plays in giving children a strong start. Eric Dearing, Kathleen McCartney, and Beck A. Taylor, Does Higher Quality Early Child Care Promote Low-Income Children's Math and Reading Achievement in Middle Childhood?, Child Development, 80 (5), 2009, 1329-1349; National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine, From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development (Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2000); Ellen S. Peisner-Feinberg, Richard M. Clifford, Mary L. Culkin, Carollee Howes, Sharon Lynn Kagan, et al., The Children of the Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study Go to School (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center, 1999); Suzanne Helburn, Mary L. Culkin, Carollee Howes, Donna Bryant, Richard Clifford, Debby Cryer, Ellen Peisner-Feinberg, and Sharon Lynn Kagan, Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers (Denver, CO: University of Colorado, 1995).

2 In 2020 (the most recent year for which data are available), 5.540 million families with children under age six (35.4 percent) had incomes under 200 percent of poverty. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2021 Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Detailed Table POV08. Families With Related Children Under 6 by Number of Working Family Members and Family Structure: 2020, *available at* https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-pov/pov-08.html.

3 Child Care Aware of America, Demanding Change: Repairing Our Child Care System (Arlington, VA: Child Care Aware of America, 2022), Appendix Tables I and II, *available at* https://www.childcareaware.org/demanding-change-repairing-our-child-care-system/.

4 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2021: Childcare Workers (2022), *available at* https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes399011.htm.

5 Claire Ewing-Nelson, One in Five Child Care Jobs Have Been Lost Since February, and Women Are Paying the Price, National Women's Law Center (August 2020), *available at* https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ChildCareWorkersFS.pdf; Lea J.E. Austin, Bethany Edwards, Raúl Chávez, and Marcy Whitebook, Racial Wage Gaps in Early Education Employment, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (December 2019), *available at* https://cscce.berkeley.edu/racial-wage-gaps-in-early-education-employment/.

6 This amount includes $5.911 billion in discretionary funding and $2.917 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Fiscal Year 2022 Budget in Brief (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2021), 109 and 116, *available at* https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2022-budget-in-brief.pdf.

7 This amount includes $5.826 billion in discretionary funding and $2.917 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Pub. L. No. 116-94 133 Stat. 2571 (2019); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Fiscal Year 2021 Budget in Brief (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2020), 146, *available at* https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2021-budget-in-brief.pdf.

8 National Women's Law Center calculations using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

9 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017, Pub. L. No. 115–31, 131 Stat. 532 (2017).

10 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Pub. L. No. 111–5, 123 Stat. 178 (2009).

11 This amount includes $2.127 billion in discretionary funding, $2.917 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding, and $1 billion in ARRA funding (assuming that the additional $2 billion in CCDBG funding for states to obligate in FY 2009 and FY 2010 provided through ARRA allowed for $1 billion in ARRA funds each year for FY 2009 and FY 2010). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Fiscal Year 2011 Budget in Brief (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010), 75, 79, *available at* https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asfr/budget/budgets-in-brief-performance-reports/index.html.

12 National Women's Law Center calculations using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

13 CCDBG funding in FY 2002, before adjusting for inflation, was $4.817 billion. This amount includes $2.1 billion in discretionary funding and $2.717 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FY 2003 President's Budget for HHS (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2002), 83, 92, *available at* https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asfr/budget/budgets-in-brief-performance-reports/index.html. Inflation adjustment calculated by National Women's Law Center using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

14 This total includes $1.437 billion transferred to CCDBG and $1.407 billion spent directly on child care (including both that categorized as "assistance" and "non-assistance"). National Women's Law Center analysis of data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, Fiscal Year 2020 TANF Financial Data, Table A.1.: Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures Summary by ACF-196 Spending Category, FY 2020, *available at* https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/fy2020_tanf_financial_data_table_092221.pdf.

15 This total includes $2.413 billion transferred to CCDBG, $353 million spent on child care categorized as "assistance," and $1.200 billion spent on child care categorized as "non-assistance." National Women's Law Center analysis of data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Fiscal Year 2000 TANF Financial Data, Table A. Combined Federal Funds Spent in FY 2000 Through the Fourth Quarter, *retrieved from* http://archive.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/tanf_2000.html.

16 National Women's Law Center calculations using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

17 In FY 2001, CCDBG funding was $4.567 billion ($7.307 billion in FY 2021 dollars) and TANF funding used for child care was $3.541 billion ($5.666 billion in FY 2021 dollars). The CCDBG funding amount includes $2.0 billion in discretionary funding and $2.567 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FY 2002 President's Budget for HHS (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2001), 89-90, *available at* https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asfr/budget/budgets-in-brief-performance-reports/index.html. The TANF funding amount includes $1.899 billion transferred to CCDBG, $285 million spent on child care categorized as "assistance," and $1.357 billion spent on child care categorized as "non-assistance." National Women's Law Center analysis of data from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Fiscal Year 2001 TANF Financial Data, Table A. Combined Federal Funds Spent in FY 2001 Through the Fourth Quarter, *retrieved from* http://archive.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/data/tanf_2001.html. CCDBG and TANF amounts in FY 2021 dollars calculated by National Women's Law Center using Congressional Budget Office, The Budget and Economic Outlook report series; figures are adjusted for inflation using the average of the Consumer Price Index and the Employment Cost Index.

18 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 557-558 (2020).

19 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, 134 Stat. 1914 (2020).

20 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2, 135 Stat. 31, 207 (2021).

21 This report focuses on the income criteria used to determine a family's eligibility when it first applies for assistance because this traditionally has been used as the measure of access to benefit programs and determines whether a family can enter the program. However, many states allow families to continue to receive assistance up to a higher income level than the initial eligibility limit. Information about states that have different entrance and exit income eligibility limits is provided in the notes to Tables 1a and 1b.

22 The federal poverty level for a family of three was $21,720 in 2020. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2020 Poverty Guidelines, *available at* https://aspe.hhs.gov/2020-poverty-guidelines. The federal poverty level for a family of three was $21,960 in 2021. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2021 Poverty Guidelines, *available at* https://aspe.hhs.gov/2021-poverty-guidelines.

23 The federal poverty level for a family of three was $14,630 in 2001. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2001 HHS Poverty Guidelines, *available at* http://aspe.hhs.gov/2001-hhs-poverty-guidelines.

24 Comparable data were not collected for 2001.

25 Comparable data were not collected for 2001.

26 For Colorado, which allows counties to set their income limits within state guidelines, the maximum allowable income limit is used for the analysis in this report. For Texas, which allows local workforce development boards to set their income limits within a state-specified range, the maximum of that range is used for the analysis in this report. For Virginia, which has four different income limits for each of four different regions, the highest regional income limit is used for the analysis in this report.

27 State median income is not used to measure inflation between 2001 and 2021 because variations among states in state median income adjustments and in the benchmark states use to set their income eligibility limits are more difficult to track than changes in the federal poverty level over a long-term period.

28 These four states include Louisiana (which increased its income limit from 55 percent of the 2020 state median income to 65 percent of the 2021 state median income), Michigan (which increased its income limit from 130 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level to 150 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level), South Carolina (which increased its income limit from 55 percent of the 2020 state median income to 300 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level) and Utah (which increased its income limit from 60 percent to 85 percent of the 2019 state median income). In most instances, the states included in the counts referenced in the text of this report are discernible from the tables following the endnotes. When the states are not easily discernible from the tables, the endnotes identify the states referenced.

29 These 35 states include 27 states (Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming) that set their income limits based on the federal poverty level and adjusted their income limits for the 2020 federal poverty level; and eight states (California, Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas) that set their income limits based on state median income and adjusted their income limits for the 2021 state median income between February 2020 and February 2021.

30 These six states include one state (Kentucky) that set its income limit based on the federal poverty level and adjusted its income limit from the 2018 to 2021 federal poverty level; one state (Wisconsin) that set its income limit based on the federal poverty level and adjusted its income limit from the 2019 to 2021 federal poverty level; one state (Arkansas) that set its income limit based on state median income and adjusted its income limit from the 2018 to 2021 state median income; and three states (Maine, Mississippi, and Oklahoma) that set their income limits based on state median income and adjusted their income limits from the 2019 to 2021 state median income between February 2020 and February 2021.

31 These six states are Alaska, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, North Carolina, and West Virginia.

32 These 12 states include one state in which the income limit decreased by five percentage points, one state in which the income limit decreased by four percentage points, six states in which the income limit decreased by two percentage points, one state in which the income limit had no percentage point change, two states in which the income limit increased by four percentage points, and one state in which the income limit increased by five percentage points as a percentage of the federal poverty level.

33 National Women's Law Center analysis of data from Elise Gould and Zane Mokhiber, The Economic Policy Institute's Family Budget Calculator (Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute, 2022), *available at* https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/; and from Sylvia Allegretto, Basic Family Budgets: Working Families' Incomes Often Fail to Meet Living Expenses Around the U.S. (Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute, 2005), *available at* http://www.epi.org/page/-/old/briefingpapers/165/bp165.pdf.

34 *See,* e.g., Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, In Their Own Voices: Parents and Providers Struggling with Child Care Cuts (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2005), 10; Children's Action Alliance, The Real Reality of Arizona's Working Families—Child Care Survey Highlights (Phoenix, AZ: Children's Action Alliance, 2004); Deborah Schlick, Mary Daly, and Lee Bradford, Faces on the Waiting List: Waiting for Child Care Assistance in Ramsey County (Ramsey County, MN: Ramsey County Human Services, 1999) (Survey conducted by the Minnesota Center for Survey Research at the University of Minnesota); Philip Coltoff, Myrna Torres, and Natasha Lifton, The Human Cost of Waiting for Child Care: A Study (New York, NY: Children's Aid Society, 1999); Jennifer Gulley and Ann Hilbig, Waiting List Survey: Gulf Coast Workforce Development Area (Houston, TX: Neighborhood Centers, Inc., 1999); Jeffrey D. Lyons, Susan D. Russell, Christina Gilgor, and Amy H. Staples, Child Care Subsidy: The Costs of Waiting (Chapel Hill, NC: Day Care Services Association, 1998); Casey Coonerty and Tamsin Levy, Waiting for Child Care: How Do Parents Adjust to Scarce Options in Santa Clara County? (Berkeley, CA: Policy Analysis for California Education, 1998); Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth, et al., Use of Subsidized Child Care by Philadelphia Families (Philadelphia, PA: Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth, 1997); Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, Valuing Families: The High Cost of Waiting for Child Care Sliding Fee Assistance (Minneapolis, MN: Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, 1995).

35 Waiting lists are not a perfect measure of unmet need, however. For example, waiting lists may increase due to expanded outreach efforts that make more families aware of child care assistance programs, and may decrease due to a state's adoption of more restrictive eligibility criteria.

36 These states include Georgia, which is characterized in this report as having frozen intake in 2020 and 2021, even though the state no longer refers to its policy as frozen intake, because in February 2020 and February 2021 it did not serve otherwise eligible families unless they met the state's priority criteria (families participating in TANF, children with disabilities, grandparents raising grandchildren, children with court-ordered supervision, children receiving protective services, foster children, parents ages 20 or younger, families lacking regular and adequate housing, families experiencing domestic violence, families with children participating in the state-funded prekindergarten program, families experiencing state- or federally declared natural disasters, and families with very low incomes).

37 These figures do not include waiting list totals for California or New York because they had local waiting lists and did not provide statewide waiting list totals for 2021, 2020, and/or 2001. These figures also do not include waiting list totals for Georgia because the state provided a waiting list total only for 2001, and did not provide comparable data for 2021 or 2020, when the state only served families that met its priority criteria, and turned away all other eligible families without placing them on a waiting list. Also note that for Minnesota, which only reported the number of families—not children—on its waiting lists in 2021 and 2020, the National Women's Law Center estimated the number of children on the state's waiting list from the number of families based on the ratio between the number of children receiving assistance and the number of families receiving assistance, calculated from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, FY 2019 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served, *available at* https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/data/fy-2019-preliminary-data-table-1.

38 If a state determines its copayments based on the cost of care, this report assumes that the family had a four-year-old in a licensed center charging the state's maximum base payment rate. If a state allows localities to set their copayments within a state-specified range, the maximum level allowed by the state and/or in effect in a locality is used for the analysis in this report.

39 Child Care and Development Fund (Preamble to Final Rule), 81 Fed. Reg. 190 (September 30, 2016), *available at* https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/09/30/2016-22986/child-care-and-development-fund-program.

40 U.S. Census Bureau, Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements: 2011, Detailed Tables, Table 6: Average Weekly Child Care Expenditures of Families with Employed Mothers that Make Payments, by Age Groups and Selected Characteristics: Spring 2011 (2013), *available at* http://www.census.gov/data/tables/2008/demo/2011-tables.html.

41 For a family of three, 150 percent of the federal poverty level was equal to an income of $32,580 in 2020 and $32,940 in 2021.

42 This state is Idaho. While families with incomes at 150 percent of poverty could not qualify for child care assistance in 12 other states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, and West Virginia) in 2020 and 11 other states (Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, and West Virginia) in 2021, families already receiving assistance could continue receiving assistance—and thus have copayments—up to an exit eligibility limit above 150 percent of poverty in all of these other states in 2020 and 2021.

43 For a family of three, 150 percent of the federal poverty level was equal to an income of $21,945 in 2001.

44 This recommendation to set payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates is in the preamble to both the previous regulations, *see* Child Care and Development Fund (Preamble to Final Rule), 63 Fed. Reg. 142 (July 24, 1998), *available at* http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-1998-07-24/pdf/98-19418.pdf, and the current regulations issued in September 2016, *see* Child Care and Development Fund (Preamble to Final Rule), 81 Fed. Reg. 190 (September 30, 2016). Under the CCDBG Act of 2014, which codified the ways in which states must set payment rates, states must set their

rates using a market rate survey or alternative methodology that they have "developed and conducted (not earlier than 2 years before the date of the submission of the application containing the State plan)." Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1971, 1985-1986 (2014). Since the law also requires states to submit their plans only once every three years, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1971, 1972 (2014), the effect of the statutory language is to permit rates to be set based on a market rate survey older than two years. However, this report, as in previous years, considers rates to be current only if based on a market rate survey conducted no more than two years earlier.

45 Hawaii and South Dakota were the two states that set their payment rates at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates in February 2021. Maine is not considered as having its payment rates at the federally recommended level in February 2021 because at that time its rates were at the 75th percentile based on an outdated market rate survey (a 2018 survey). However, the state increased its payment rates to at least the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates as of July 2021.

46 For this analysis, a state's payment rates are not considered to be at the 75th percentile of market rates if only some of its rates—for example, for certain regions, age groups, or higher-quality care—are at the 75th percentile.

47 Florida, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Oklahoma are not counted as setting their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates in 2021, even though each of these states had some payment rates for providers at the most common quality level—including one or both of the rates shown in Table 4d—that were at or above the 75th percentile of market rates, because each state also had payment rates for other age groups or at other quality levels that fell below the 75th percentile. Colorado and the District of Columbia are also not counted as setting their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates; as shown in Table 4d, their rates were at or above the 75th percentile of outdated market rates, but it cannot be determined if their rates were at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates (market rates from 2019, 2020, or 2021) because data from more recent market surveys were not available for these states.

48 These 36 states are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Most of these states are included because they increased their rates for all categories of care, but a few of these states only increased certain rates. Florida is included because some of its local early learning coalitions—which set rates and determine when to update them—increased their rates. Indiana and Kansas are included because they increased their rates for infant and toddler care. Montana is included because it increased its rates for school-age care. Vermont is included because it increased its rates for preschool- and school-age care. States are generally not included here if they increased only their higher rates for higher-quality care (tiered rates) and not their base rates; see endnotes 61 and 62 and accompanying text for discussion of changes in tiered rates. Differences between rates shown in Table 4d of this report and rates shown in Table 4d of the State Child Care Assistance Policies 2019 or 2020 reports for any states other than those identified in this and the following endnote are due to revisions or recalculations of the data or changes in the category for which data are reported rather than policy changes.

49 These 21 states are Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Washington. Most of these states are included because they increased their rates for all categories of care, but a few of these states only increased certain rates. Connecticut is included because it increased its rates for licensed and license-exempt family child care. Florida is included because some of its local early learning coalitions increased their rates. Kansas is included because it increased its rates for infant and toddler care. Montana is included because it increased its rates for school-age care. Tennessee, Texas, and Vermont are included because they increased their rates for preschool-age care.

50 This analysis is based on rates in each state's most populous city, county, or region. For states that pay higher rates for higher-quality care, this analysis uses the state's most common payment rate level (the level representing the greatest number of providers). Also note that states were asked to report the 75th percentile of market rates based on their most recent market rate survey, and the majority of states reported data from 2019 or more recent surveys. However, 21 states reported data from surveys conducted before 2019. In 16 of these states, payment rates were less than 20 percent below the 75th percentile of market rates based on their outdated surveys; it is not possible to calculate whether their payment rates were 20 percent or more below the 75th percentile of current market rates.

51 This analysis is based on tiered rates in each state's most populous city, county, or region. Within each state, the use and structure of tiered rates may vary across cities, counties, or regions.

52 Comparable data on tiered rates were not collected for 2001.

53 Virginia began offering tiered payments, and Mississippi stopped offering them, between 2020 and 2021.

54 This state is Hawaii.

55 This state is Massachusetts.

56 This analysis is based on the number of different rate levels, not the number of quality levels. The base rate refers to the lowest rate level, regardless of whether the base level is incorporated into the state's quality rating and improvement system (for example, a base rate that is the initial one-star rate in a five-star rating system) or is not a level of the quality rating and improvement system (for example, a base rate that is the rate for providers not participating in a voluntary five-star rating system).

57 Between 2020 and 2021, Rhode Island reduced the number of its rate levels from five to two.

58 Massachusetts is not included in this analysis because it does not have higher rates for higher-quality care for four-year-olds. The state's highest rate for center care for a one-year-old was 12 percent below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

59 These 21 states include Florida, New Mexico, and North Carolina, each of which determined a separate 75th percentile of market rates for child care providers at separate quality levels. In North Carolina, the payment rate at the highest quality level was lower than the 75th percentile for each of the state's quality levels. In Florida, the payment rate at the highest quality level was below the 75th percentile at the highest quality level for which the state collected data, but above the 75th percentile at the lowest quality level. In New Mexico, the payment rate at the highest quality level was lower than the 75th percentile for the state's highest quality level, but above the 75th percentile for each of the state's four lower quality levels.

60 Massachusetts' highest rate for center care for a one-year-old was 3 percent above its lowest rate for this type of care.

61 These three states are Arkansas, Hawaii, and Rhode Island.

62 These three states are New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Utah.

63 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1971, 1979 (2014).

64 The federal Office of Child Care allowed states until September 30, 2016, to implement provisions in the law for which an effective date is not specified, including this provision. *See* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, Draft Child Care and Development Fund Plan Preprint for Public Comment, September 14, 2015, 5, *retrieved from* https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/fy2016_2018_ccdf_plan_preprin_draft_for_public_comment_91415.pdf.

65 National Women's Law Center, Child Care and Development Fund Plans FY 2016-2018: State Waivers and Corrective Actions (2016), *available at* https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CCDF-State-Plans-FY-2016-2018-State-Waivers-and-Corrective-Actions-FINAL.pdf.

66 This analysis is based on policies for families not connected to the TANF program. Additional states allowed families receiving or transitioning from TANF to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job.

67 Some of these states allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for three months (or the equivalent) even if they reached the end of their eligibility period before the end of that three-month period for job search, while some of these states only allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance until the end of their eligibility period, even if the parent had not yet had a full three months to search for a job; see Table 5 notes for more details on each state's policy.

68 See notes after the tables for more details about state policy changes since February 2021.

69 These 15 states include Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington.

70 These 20 states include California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

71 These 35 states include Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

72 These 12 states include Alabama, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, and Wyoming.

73 Nina Chien, Factsheet: Estimates of Child Care Eligibility and Receipt for Fiscal Year 2018 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Services Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2021), *available at* https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/cy-2018-child-care-subsidy-eligibility.pdf.

74 National Women's Law Center calculations based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, FY 2019 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served, *available at* https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/data/fy-2019-preliminary-data-table-1; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, FY 2001 CCDF Data Tables and Charts, Table 1 - Child Care and Development Fund Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served, *available at* https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/data/fy-2001-ccdf-data-tables-and-charts.

TABLE 1A

Income Eligibility Limits for a Family of Three in 2020 and 2021

	INCOME LIMIT IN 2021			INCOME LIMIT IN 2020			CHANGE IN INCOME LIMIT 2020 TO 2021		
	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2021 federal poverty level ($21,960 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2020 federal poverty level ($21,720 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of poverty	As percent of state median income
Alabama*	$28,236	129%	43%	$27,732	128%	45%	$504	1%	-2%
Alaska*	$71,520	326%	82%	$71,520	329%	84%	$0	-4%	-2%
Arizona*	$35,844	163%	54%	$35,208	162%	56%	$636	1%	-2%
Arkansas	$49,561	226%	85%	$43,803	202%	80%	$5,758	24%	5%
California*	$73,885	336%	94%	$69,620	321%	94%	$4,265	16%	0%
Colorado*	$40,182-$57,558	183%-262%	47%-68%	$39,461-$56,525	182%-260%	49%-70%	$722-$1,033	1%-2%	-2%
Connecticut*	$50,676	231%	50%	$48,691	224%	50%	$1,984	7%	0%
Delaware*	$40,188	183%	47%	$39,468	182%	50%	$720	1%	-2%
District of Columbia*	$53,325	243%	53%	$53,325	246%	60%	$0	-3%	-8%
Florida*	$32,580	148%	50%	$31,995	147%	52%	$585	1%	-2%
Georgia*	$33,688	153%	50%	$32,007	147%	50%	$1,681	6%	0%
Hawaii*	$47,124	215%	54%	$47,124	217%	57%	$0	-2%	-3%
Idaho*	$28,232	129%	45%	$27,744	128%	47%	$488	1%	-2%
Illinois*	$43,440	198%	53%	$42,660	196%	54%	$780	1%	-2%
Indiana*	$27,588	126%	39%	$27,084	125%	41%	$504	1%	-1%
Iowa*	$31,500	143%	41%	$30,936	142%	42%	$564	1%	-1%
Kansas*	$40,188	183%	55%	$39,468	182%	56%	$720	1%	-1%
Kentucky*	$35,136	160%	54%	$33,252	153%	53%	$1,884	7%	1%
Louisiana*	$43,392	198%	65%	$35,736	165%	55%	$7,656	33%	10%
Maine	$64,380	293%	85%	$58,000	267%	81%	$6,380	26%	4%
Maryland*	$60,081	274%	60%	$60,081	277%	62%	$0	-3%	-2%
Massachusetts*	$52,641	240%	50%	$50,292	232%	50%	$2,349	8%	0%
Michigan*	$32,580	148%	43%	$26,556	122%	37%	$6,024	26%	6%
Minnesota*	$42,920	195%	47%	$41,070	189%	47%	$1,850	6%	0%
Mississippi*	$45,999	209%	82%	$43,999	203%	81%	$2,000	7%	1%
Missouri*	$29,976	137%	42%	$29,448	136%	44%	$528	1%	-2%
Montana*	$32,580	148%	45%	$31,992	147%	47%	$588	1%	-2%
Nebraska*	$28,236	129%	37%	$27,732	128%	38%	$504	1%	-1%
Nevada*	$28,236	129%	43%	$27,732	128%	43%	$504	1%	-1%
New Hampshire*	$47,784	218%	49%	$46,926	216%	51%	$858	2%	-2%
New Jersey*	$43,440	198%	42%	$42,660	196%	43%	$780	1%	-1%
New Mexico*	$43,440	198%	79%	$42,660	196%	79%	$780	1%	0%
New York*	$43,440	198%	52%	$42,660	196%	53%	$780	1%	-1%
North Carolina*	$42,660	194%	63%	$42,660	196%	66%	$0	-2%	-3%
North Dakota*	$50,796	231%	60%	$49,020	226%	60%	$1,776	6%	0%
Ohio*	$28,236	129%	38%	$27,729	128%	39%	$507	1%	-1%
Oklahoma*	$52,464	239%	85%	$48,708	224%	82%	$3,756	15%	3%
Oregon*	$40,188	183%	54%	$39,468	182%	56%	$720	1%	-3%
Pennsylvania*	$43,440	198%	53%	$42,660	196%	55%	$780	1%	-1%
Rhode Island*	$39,096	178%	45%	$38,394	177%	46%	$702	1%	-1%
South Carolina*	$65,160	297%	101%	$33,911	156%	55%	$31,249	141%	46%
South Dakota*	$47,288	215%	65%	$46,450	214%	67%	$838	1%	-1%
Tennessee*	$54,588	249%	85%	$52,272	241%	85%	$2,316	8%	0%
Texas*	$40,166-$58,608	183%-267%	58%-85%	$39,456-$55,960	182%-258%	60%-85%	$710-$2,648	1%-9%	-2%-0%
Utah*	$57,420	261%	80%	$41,232	190%	60%	$16,188	72%	19%
Vermont*	$65,160	297%	82%	$63,996	295%	84%	$1,164	2%	-2%
Virginia*	$32,580-$54,300	148%-247%	37%-62%	$32,004-$53,328	147%-246%	38%-63%	$576-$972	1%-2%	-1%
Washington*	$43,440	198%	51%	$42,672	196%	52%	$768	1%	-2%
West Virginia*	$31,992	146%	51%	$31,992	147%	53%	$0	-2%	-1%
Wisconsin*	$40,626	185%	50%	$39,461	182%	51%	$1,165	3%	-1%
Wyoming*	$40,416	184%	53%	$39,732	183%	54%	$684	1%	-2%

TABLE 1B

Income Eligibility Limits for a Family of Three in 2001 and 2021

	INCOME LIMIT IN 2021			INCOME LIMIT IN 2001			CHANGE IN INCOME LIMIT 2001 TO 2021		
	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2021 federal poverty level ($21,960 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2001 federal poverty level ($14,630 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of poverty	As percent of state median income
Alabama*	$28,236	129%	43%	$18,048	123%	41%	$10,188	5%	2%
Alaska*	$71,520	326%	82%	$44,328	303%	75%	$27,192	23%	7%
Arizona*	$35,844	163%	54%	$23,364	160%	52%	$12,480	4%	1%
Arkansas*	$49,561	226%	85%	$23,523	161%	60%	$26,038	65%	25%
California*	$73,885	336%	94%	$35,100	240%	66%	$38,785	97%	28%
Colorado*	$40,182-$57,558	183%-262%	47%-68%	$19,020-$32,000	130%-219%	36%-61%	$21,162-$25,558	43%-53%	7%-11%
Connecticut*	$50,676	231%	50%	$47,586	325%	75%	$3,090	-95%	-25%
Delaware*	$40,188	183%	47%	$29,260	200%	53%	$10,928	-17%	-6%
District of Columbia*	$53,325	243%	53%	$34,700	237%	66%	$18,625	6%	-14%
Florida*	$32,580	148%	50%	$20,820	142%	45%	$11,760	6%	6%
Georgia*	$33,688	153%	50%	$24,278	166%	50%	$9,410	-13%	0%
Hawaii*	$47,124	215%	54%	$46,035	315%	83%	$1,089	-100%	-29%
Idaho*	$28,232	129%	45%	$20,472	140%	51%	$7,760	-11%	-6%
Illinois*	$43,440	198%	53%	$24,243	166%	43%	$19,197	32%	9%
Indiana*	$27,588	126%	39%	$20,232	138%	41%	$7,356	-13%	-2%
Iowa*	$31,500	143%	41%	$19,812	135%	41%	$11,688	8%	0%
Kansas*	$40,188	183%	55%	$27,060	185%	56%	$13,128	-2%	-1%
Kentucky*	$35,136	160%	54%	$24,140	165%	55%	$10,996	-5%	-1%
Louisiana*	$43,392	198%	65%	$29,040	205%	75%	$14,352	-7%	-10%
Maine	$64,380	293%	85%	$36,452	249%	75%	$27,928	44%	10%
Maryland*	$60,081	274%	60%	$25,140	172%	40%	$34,941	102%	20%
Massachusetts*	$52,641	240%	50%	$28,968	198%	48%	$23,673	42%	2%
Michigan*	$32,580	148%	43%	$26,064	178%	47%	$6,516	-30%	-4%
Minnesota*	$42,920	195%	47%	$42,304	289%	76%	$616	-94%	-29%
Mississippi*	$45,999	209%	82%	$30,999	212%	77%	$15,000	-2%	5%
Missouri*	$29,976	137%	42%	$17,784	122%	37%	$12,192	15%	5%
Montana*	$32,580	148%	45%	$21,948	150%	51%	$10,632	-2%	-6%
Nebraska*	$28,236	129%	37%	$25,260	173%	54%	$2,976	-44%	-17%
Nevada*	$28,236	129%	43%	$33,420	228%	67%	-$5,184	-100%	-24%
New Hampshire*	$47,784	218%	49%	$27,797	190%	50%	$19,987	28%	-1%
New Jersey*	$43,440	198%	42%	$29,260	200%	46%	$14,180	-2%	-4%
New Mexico*	$43,440	198%	79%	$28,300	193%	75%	$15,140	4%	4%
New York*	$43,440	198%	52%	$28,644	202%	61%	$14,796	-4%	-9%
North Carolina*	$42,660	194%	63%	$32,628	223%	69%	$10,032	-29%	-6%
North Dakota*	$50,796	231%	60%	$29,556	202%	69%	$21,240	29%	-9%
Ohio*	$28,236	129%	38%	$27,066	185%	57%	$1,170	-56%	-19%
Oklahoma*	$52,464	239%	85%	$29,040	198%	66%	$23,424	40%	19%
Oregon*	$40,188	183%	54%	$27,060	185%	60%	$13,128	-2%	-6%
Pennsylvania*	$43,440	198%	53%	$29,260	200%	58%	$14,180	-2%	-5%
Rhode Island*	$39,096	178%	45%	$32,918	225%	61%	$6,178	-47%	-16%
South Carolina*	$65,160	297%	101%	$21,225	145%	45%	$43,935	152%	56%
South Dakota*	$47,288	215%	65%	$22,826	156%	52%	$24,462	59%	13%
Tennessee*	$54,588	249%	85%	$24,324	166%	56%	$30,264	82%	29%
Texas*	$40,166-$58,608	183%-267%	58%-85%	$21,228-$36,516	145%-250%	47%-82%	$18,938-$22,092	17%-38%	3%-11%
Utah*	$57,420	261%	80%	$28,248	193%	59%	$29,172	68%	21%
Vermont*	$65,160	297%	82%	$31,032	212%	64%	$34,128	85%	18%
Virginia*	$32,580-$54,300	148%-247%	37%-62%	$21,948-$27,060	150%-185%	41%-50%	$10,632-$27,240	-2%-62%	-4%-12%
Washington*	$43,440	198%	51%	$32,916	225%	63%	$10,524	-27%	-12%
West Virginia*	$31,992	146%	51%	$28,296	193%	75%	$3,696	-48%	-23%
Wisconsin*	$40,626	185%	50%	$27,060	185%	51%	$13,566	0%	0%
Wyoming*	$40,416	184%	53%	$21,948	150%	47%	$18,468	34%	6%

NOTES FOR TABLES 1A AND 1B: INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMITS

The income eligibility limits shown in the tables represent the maximum income families can have when they apply for child care assistance. Some states allow families, once receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than that initial limit. These higher exit eligibility limits are reported below for states that have them. (The CCDBG Act of 2014 requires states to allow families receiving assistance to continue doing so until the end of their 12-month eligibility period, regardless of temporary changes in participation in work, training, or education or increases in income, unless their income exceeds 85 percent of state median income. However, exit eligibility limits are only reported below if they apply not solely prior to the end of the eligibility period, but also when determining whether a family can renew its eligibility for assistance at the beginning of a new certification period.)

Changes in income limits were calculated using raw data, rather than the rounded numbers shown in the tables. All income limits given as dollar amounts below are annual amounts for a family of three.

State income limits were calculated in the table as a percentage of state median income using the state median income estimates reported annually in the Federal Register for use in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); these estimates are prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau based on multiple years of American Community Survey data. Some states use alternative state median income estimates as the basis for setting their income limits.

Data in the tables for 2021 reflect policies as of February 2021, data in the tables for 2020 reflect policies as of February 2020, and data in the tables for 2001 reflect policies as of June 2001, unless otherwise indicated. Certain changes in policies since February 2021 are noted below.

ALABAMA: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $27,756. In 2020, the exit eligibility limit was $36,264, and in 2021, it was $36,924 (170 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level). As of June 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $39,096 (180 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $43,440 (200 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level).

ALASKA: The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) payment, which the majority of families in the state receive, is not counted when determining eligibility.

ARIZONA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $53,832. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $56,616. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $36,240 (165 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $58,716 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

ARKANSAS: The income limit shown in Table 1b for 2001 takes into account a deduction of $100 per month ($1,200 per year) that was allowed for an adult household member who worked at least 30 hours per week, assuming there was one working parent. The stated income limit, in policy, was $22,323 in 2001. The state no longer used the deduction in 2020 or 2021.

CALIFORNIA: As of July 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $78,135 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate. Also note that under policies in effect in 2001, families that had been receiving assistance as of January 1, 1998, could continue doing so until their income reached $46,800 since they were subject to higher income limits previously in effect.

COLORADO: Counties set their income limits to qualify for assistance within state guidelines; the ranges shown in the tables indicate the lowest and highest allowable limits. In 2020, counties could set their income limits at $39,461, $47,993, or $56,525, depending on the county's self-sufficiency standard. In 2021, counties could set their income limits at $40,182, $48,870, or $57,558. Also note that in 2001, counties could allow families already receiving assistance to continue doing so up to an exit eligibility limit that was higher than the county's initial eligibility limit; the maximum allowable exit eligibility limit was $32,000. In 2020, all counties were required to set their exit eligibility limit at $68,218. In 2021, all counties were required to set their exit eligibility limit at $71,943. As of October 2021, the levels at which counties could set their income limits to qualify for assistance were increased to $40,626 (185 percent of poverty), $49,410 (225 percent of poverty), and $58,194 (265 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit for all counties was increased to $75,770 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

CONNECTICUT: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $63,299. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $65,878. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of July 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $60,811. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $63,044 (60 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $68,298 (65 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

DELAWARE: In 2020, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional 12 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $42,660. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit for this graduated phase-out period was $43,440. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $40,632 (185 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $41,640. In 2020 and 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $75,094 (85 percent of state median income).

FLORIDA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $50,047. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $52,602. As of July 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $32,940 (150 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $55,191 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

GEORGIA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $54,412. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $57,270. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $35,638 (50 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $60,584 (85 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate. As of November 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was temporarily increased to $60,584.

HAWAII: As of August 2021, the income limit was increased to $70,404 (85 percent of state median income). Also note that the income limit shown in Table 1b for 2001 takes into account a 20 percent deduction of all countable income. The stated income limit, in policy, was $36,828. The state no longer used the deduction in 2020 or 2021.

IDAHO: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $32,004. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $32,580. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of March 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $31,500. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $31,848 (145 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $32,940 (150 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

ILLINOIS: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $48,000. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $48,876 (225 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of July 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $54,900 (250 percent of poverty). Also note that the income limit shown in Table 1b for 2001 takes into account a 10 percent earned income deduction. The stated income limit, in policy, was $21,819. The state no longer used the deduction in 2020 or 2021.

INDIANA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $56,844. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $59,411 (85 percent of state median income). As of March 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $27,888 (127 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

IOWA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional 12 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $59,868 (85 percent of state median income). In 2021, families could continue receiving assistance, with no time limit, up to an exit eligibility limit of $48,876. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. Also note that for special needs care, the income limit to qualify for assistance was $42,660 in 2020 and $43,440 in 2021. As of July 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $31,848 (145 percent of poverty) for standard care and $43,920 (200 percent of poverty) for special needs care, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $49,416 (225 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

KANSAS: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $57,744. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $59,748. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of April 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $40,632 (185 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $62,148 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate. As of July 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $54,900 (250 percent of poverty).

KENTUCKY: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $41,556. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $43,920 (200 percent of poverty). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of January 2022, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $43,920, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $55,476 (85 percent of state median income).

LOUISIANA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $55,236. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $56,736 (85 percent of state median income). Also note that data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 15, 2000 are used instead in Table 1b.

MARYLAND: In 2020 and 2021, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $78,013 (85 percent of state median income). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001.

MASSACHUSETTS: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $49,248. In 2020, the exit eligibility limit was $85,497, and in 2021, it was $89,489. Also note that, for special needs care, the income limit to qualify for assistance was $85,497 in 2020 and $89,489 in 2021; there was no separate exit eligibility limit for special needs care. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $55,126 (50 percent of state median income) for standard care and $93,714 (85 percent of state median income) for special needs care, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $93,714 for all families, to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

MICHIGAN: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $56,460. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $64,032. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $40,632 (185 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $66,756 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

MINNESOTA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $58,547. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $61,184. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $44,589 (47 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $63,564 (67 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

MISSISSIPPI: As of November 2021, the income limit was increased to $48,999 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

MISSOURI: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $45,864. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $46,704. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of May 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $30,300 (138 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $47,220 (215 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

MONTANA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $39,456. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $40,188 (185 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of June 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $40,632 (185 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty).

NEBRASKA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $39,456. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $40,188 (185 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $40,632 (185 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty). Also note that, since July 2014, the state disregards 10 percent of a family's income at redetermination if the family had continuously received assistance for 12 months.

NEVADA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $54,528. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $56,220. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. For families served by contracted slots (which are mostly used for before- and after-school programs) or receiving wrap-around services (which are services provided before and after Head Start programs), as well as for families receiving child protective services, foster families, and families experiencing homelessness, the income limit to qualify for assistance was $54,528 in 2020 and $56,220 in 2021. As of October 2021, the income limit for these families to qualify for assistance was increased to $58,908 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate; for all other families, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $28,548 (130 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $58,908 to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $53,325. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $54,300. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of July 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $48,312 (220 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $54,900 (250 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

NEW JERSEY: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $36,575. In 2020, the exit eligibility limit was $53,325, and in 2021, it was $54,300. In 2020, the state also allowed families already receiving assistance to continue receiving it for a graduated phase-out period of 12 months if their incomes were between $53,325 and $85,989; in 2021, this graduated phase-out period applied to families with incomes between $54,300 and $89,039. As of March 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $54,900 (250 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level, and the income limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $94,389 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

NEW MEXICO: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $53,325. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $54,300. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of April 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $54,900 (250 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level. As of August 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $76,860 (350 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $87,840 (400 percent of poverty).

NEW YORK: As of June 2021, the income limit was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level. Also note that data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 15, 2000 are used instead in Table 1b.

NORTH CAROLINA: The income limits shown in the tables for 2020 and 2021 apply to families with children birth through age five and families with children of any age who have special needs; the income limit for families with children ages six to 13 without special needs was $28,368 in 2020 and 2021. This separate income limit for families with older children went into effect in October 2014. Also note that, in 2020 and 2021, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional 12 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $54,780. As of July 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty) for families with children birth through age five and to $29,208 (133 percent of poverty) for families with children ages six to 13, to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level, and the income limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $57,648 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

NORTH DAKOTA: In 2020, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional 12 months after their recertification, if their income did not exceed $69,444. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit for this graduated phase-out period was $71,964. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $52,464 (60 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $74,316 (85 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

OHIO: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $63,990. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $65,160. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. Also note that the income limit to qualify for assistance for families in the 12 months immediately following receiving TANF was $32,580 in 2021. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $32,940 (150 percent of poverty) for families transitioning from TANF, to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level, and to $31,188 (142 percent of poverty) for all other families. The exit eligibility limit was increased to $65,880 (300 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

OKLAHOMA: As of October 2021, the income limit was increased to $54,360 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

OREGON: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $53,328. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $54,300 (250 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of March 2021, the exit eligibility limit was increased to $63,636 (85 percent of state median income). As of January 2022, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty).

PENNSYLVANIA: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $34,381. In 2020, the exit eligibility limit was $50,126, and in 2021, it was $51,042. As of May 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $51,606 (235 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

RHODE ISLAND: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $47,993. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $48,870. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of April 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $39,528 (180 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $49,410 (225 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

SOUTH CAROLINA: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $24,763. In 2020, the exit eligibility limit was $52,408. In 2021, the state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit. As of March 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $65,880 (300 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

SOUTH DAKOTA: The income limits shown in the tables take into account that the state disregards 4 percent of earned income. The stated income limits, in policy, were $21,913 in 2001, $44,592 in 2020, and $45,396 in 2021. As of March 2021, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $45,900 (209 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level. Also note that in 2020, families already receiving assistance whose income exceeded the initial eligibility limit to qualify for assistance could continue receiving assistance, for up to an additional 12 months after their recertification, if their stated income did not exceed $59,363. In 2021, the stated exit eligibility limit for this graduated phase-out period was $61,728. As of October 2021, the stated exit eligibility limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to $63,349 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

TENNESSEE: The income limits shown in the tables for 2020 and 2021 apply to teen parents and families receiving assistance through Smart Steps—a program launched in June 2016 that serves parents who are working or pursuing postsecondary education and who are not receiving or transitioning from TANF. The income limit for other families to qualify for assistance was $36,900 in 2020 and $38,532 in 2021. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance through Smart Steps was increased to $57,672 (85 percent of state median income), and the income limit to qualify for assistance for other families was increased to $40,704 (60 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

TEXAS: Local workforce development boards set their income limits to qualify for assistance within state guidelines; the ranges shown in the tables indicate the lowest and highest income limits set by local boards. Also note that, in 2020, all local boards allowed families already receiving assistance to continue doing so up to an income of $55,960. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit, across all local boards, was $58,608. As of October 2021, the exit eligibility limit was increased to $60,972 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

UTAH: The income limits shown in the tables take into account a standard deduction of $100 per month ($1,200 per year) for each working parent, assuming there is one working parent in the family, and a standard deduction of $100 per month ($1,200 per year) for all families to help cover any medical expenses. The stated income limits, in policy, were $25,848 in 2001, $38,832 (60 percent of state median income) in 2020, and $55,020 (85 percent of state median income) in 2021. Also note that in 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so up to a stated income limit of $48,540 (75 percent of state median income). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2021. As of October 2021, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $61,176 to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

VERMONT: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $64,812. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $67,320 (85 percent of state median income). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001.

VIRGINIA: The state has different income limits for different regions of the state. In 2001, the state had three separate regional income limits, which were: $21,948, $23,400, and $27,060. In 2020, the state had four separate regional income limits: $32,004, $34,128, $39,468, and $53,328. In 2021, the state also had four separate regional income limits: $32,580 (150 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level), $34,752 (160 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level), $40,188 (185 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level), and $54,300 (250 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level). Also note that in 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so, in all regions of the state, until their income reached $71,736. In 2021, the statewide exit eligibility limit was $74,712 (85 percent of state median income). As of March 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance for families with at least one child under the age of five, not yet in kindergarten, statewide, was increased to $74,712.

WASHINGTON: In 2020, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $46,932. In 2021, the exit eligibility limit was $47,784. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of April 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $43,920 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $48,312 (220 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level. As of October 2021, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $51,288 (60 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $55,560 (65 percent of state median income).

WEST VIRGINIA: In 2020 and 2021, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $39,456. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001.

WISCONSIN: In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $29,256. In 2020, the exit eligibility limit was $62,892, and in 2021, it was $68,382 (85 percent of state median income).

WYOMING: The income limits shown in the tables for 2020 and 2021 take into account a standard deduction of $200 per month ($2,400 per year) for each working parent, assuming there is one working parent in the family. The stated income limits, in policy, were $37,332 in 2020 and $38,016 in 2021. Also note that in 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $27,060. In 2020, the stated exit eligibility limit was $47,988, and in 2021, it was $48,876. As of April 2021, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $38,436 (175 percent of poverty), and the stated exit eligibility limit was increased to $49,416 (225 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2021 federal poverty level.

TABLE 2

Waiting Lists for Child Care Assistance

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN OR FAMILIES ON WAITING LIST AS OF EARLY 2021	NUMBER OF CHILDREN OR FAMILIES ON WAITING LIST AS OF EARLY 2020	NUMBER OF CHILDREN OR FAMILIES ON WAITING LIST AS OF DECEMBER 2001
Alabama*	No waiting list	No waiting list	5,089 children
Alaska	No waiting list	No waiting list	588 children
Arizona	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Arkansas	No waiting list	No waiting list	8,000 children
California*	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level
Colorado*	26 children	353 children	Waiting lists at local level
Connecticut	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Delaware	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
District of Columbia*	No waiting list	No waiting list	9,124 children
Florida*	10,982 children	14,554 children	46,800 children
Georgia*	Frozen intake	Frozen intake	16,099 children
Hawaii	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Idaho	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Illinois	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Indiana*	3,748 children	3,558 children	11,958 children
Iowa	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Kansas	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Kentucky	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Louisiana	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Maine	No waiting list	No waiting list	2,000 children
Maryland	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Massachusetts*	13,599 children	15,944 children	18,000 children
Michigan	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Minnesota*	2,380 families	2,265 families	4,735 children
Mississippi	No waiting list	No waiting list	10,422 children
Missouri	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Montana	No waiting list	No waiting list	Waiting lists at local level
Nebraska	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Nevada*	86 children	174 children	No waiting list
New Hampshire	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
New Jersey*	No waiting list	No waiting list	9,800 children
New Mexico	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
New York*	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level
North Carolina*	18,810 children	20,307 children	25,363 children
North Dakota	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Ohio	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Oklahoma	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Oregon	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Pennsylvania*	9 children	2,111 children	540 children
Rhode Island	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
South Carolina	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
South Dakota	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Tennessee*	No waiting list	No waiting list	9,388 children (and frozen intake)
Texas*	16,003 children	34,396 children	36,799 children
Utah	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Vermont	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Virginia*	305 children	2,433 children	4,255 children
Washington	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
West Virginia	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Wisconsin	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Wyoming	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list

NOTES FOR TABLE 2:
WAITING LISTS FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

Data in the tables for 2021 reflect policies as of February 2021, and data in the tables for 2020 reflect policies as of February 2020, unless otherwise indicated.

ALABAMA: Data for December 2001 are not available so data from November 2001 are used instead.

CALIFORNIA: The estimated number of children on the waiting list in 2001 was 280,000; estimates for 2020 and 2021 are not available. The state does not have a centralized waiting list; most local contractors and some counties maintain waiting lists.

COLORADO: Waiting lists are kept at the county level, rather than at the state level. Four counties had waiting lists in 2001, but data on the total number of children on waiting lists in counties that had them are not available. In addition, four counties had frozen intake in 2001. The waiting list totals for 2020 and 2021 are the totals of reported county waiting lists. In addition, one county had frozen intake in 2020, and one county had frozen intake in 2021. Families receiving TANF, transitioning from TANF, or receiving child welfare child care are exempt from the waiting list. Counties may exempt other families from the waiting list; however, if they do, they must include households with incomes at or below 130 percent of poverty, teen parents, children with additional care needs, and homeless families among those who are exempt from the waiting list.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The waiting list total for 2001 may have included some children living in the wider metropolitan area that encompasses parts of Maryland and Virginia.

FLORIDA: Families receiving TANF and subject to federal work requirements and children up to age nine receiving protective services, although not statutorily exempt from the waiting list, are prioritized for child care assistance.

GEORGIA: As of August 2016, the state froze intake for families who did not meet priority criteria. In 2020 and 2021, the state no longer referred to its policy as frozen intake, but it only served families who met the priority criteria. Children and families that received priority for child care assistance included families participating in TANF, children with disabilities, grandparents raising grandchildren, children requiring court-ordered supervision, children receiving protective services, foster children, parents ages 20 or younger, families who lacked regular and adequate housing, families experiencing domestic violence, families with children participating in the state-funded prekindergarten program, families experiencing state- or federally declared natural disasters, and families with very low incomes (defined as families with incomes at or below 50 percent of poverty in February 2020 and February 2021, and temporarily defined as families with incomes at or below 150 percent of poverty as of November 2021).

INDIANA: Families receiving TANF and with parents participating in the state's employment and training program or searching for a job and families with referrals from the Department of Child Services, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or Ivy Tech Community College are served without being placed on the waiting list. Also note that in 2001, in addition to the waiting list, some counties had frozen intake.

MASSACHUSETTS: The state does not determine children's eligibility at the time they are added to the waiting list. Also note that families receiving TANF and with parents participating in the employment services program, families referred by the child welfare agency based on open cases of abuse or neglect, siblings of children already in care, and children of actively deployed members of the military are served without being placed on the waiting list. In addition, homeless families residing in state-funded shelters may be served through dedicated contracts without being placed on the waiting list.

MINNESOTA: Families receiving TANF, families transitioning from TANF (for up to one year after their TANF case closes), and parents under age 21 pursuing a high school degree or GED (and not receiving TANF) are served without being placed on the waiting list.

NEVADA: Families participating in the TANF Employment and Training Program (NEON), families participating in the foster/child protective services program, homeless families, and families participating in the SNAP Employment and Training program are exempt from the waiting list.

NEW JERSEY: Data for 2001 are not available, so data from March 2002 are used instead.

NEW YORK: 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 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.

NORTH CAROLINA: The state does not exempt any families from the waiting list, but it prioritizes vulnerable populations, including children with special needs and families experiencing homelessness or in a temporary living situation.

PENNSYLVANIA: Families receiving or transitioning from TANF are exempt from the waiting list. In addition, the state prioritizes certain children and families for services, including foster children, children enrolled in the state prekindergarten program, Head Start, or Early Head Start who need wrap-around child care, newborn siblings of children who are already enrolled, homeless children, teen parents who are attending high school or participating in a GED program on a full-time basis, and parents ages 18 through 22 who are attending high school on a full-time basis.

TENNESSEE: When the state reported its data in 2001, intake was frozen for all families other than those receiving or transitioning from TANF. The waiting list total for 2001 represents the number of children on the waiting list when intake was closed.

TEXAS: Local workforce development boards maintain waiting lists. The totals in the table represent the aggregate number of children on waiting lists across all of the state's 28 local boards. In addition, some boards may have frozen intake. Families in the TANF work program (Choices), families applying for TANF, families in the SNAP Employment and Training program, homeless families, and children receiving protective services are served without being placed on the waiting list.

VIRGINIA: Data for December 2001 are not available, so data from January 2001 are used instead. Families receiving or transitioning from TANF and families participating in the TANF work program are served without being placed on the waiting list.

TABLE 3A

Parent Copayments for a Family of Three with an Income at 150 Percent of Poverty and One Child in Care

	MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2021		MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2020		MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2001		CHANGE 2020 TO 2021		CHANGE 2001 TO 2021	
	As a dollar amount	As a percent of income	As a dollar amount	As a percent of income	As a dollar amount	As a percent of income	In dollar amount	In percent of income	In dollar amount	In percent of income
Alabama*	$130	5%	$130	5%	$215	12%	$0	0%	-$85	-7%
Alaska*	$0	0%	$133	5%	$71	4%	-$133	-5%	-$71	-4%
Arizona*	$65	2%	$66	2%	$217	12%	-$1	0%	-$152	-9%
Arkansas*	$0	0%	$31	1%	$224	12%	-$31	-1%	-$224	-12%
California*	$0	0%	$61	2%	$0	0%	-$61	-2%	$0	0%
Colorado*	$192	7%	$298	11%	$185	10%	-$106	-4%	$7	-3%
Connecticut*	$165	6%	$163	6%	$110	6%	$2	0%	$55	0%
Delaware*	$0	0%	$244	9%	$159	9%	-$244	-9%	-$159	-9%
District of Columbia*	$61	2%	$61	2%	$91	5%	$0	0%	-$30	-3%
Florida*	$180	7%	$189	7%	$104	6%	-$9	0%	$76	1%
Georgia*	$192	7%	$186	7%	$139	8%	$6	0%	$53	-1%
Hawaii*	$960	35%	$592	22%	$38	2%	$368	13%	$922	33%
Idaho*	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Illinois*	$196	7%	$228	8%	$134	7%	-$32	-1%	$62	0%
Indiana*	$247	9%	$244	9%	$154	8%	$3	0%	$93	1%
Iowa*	$174	6%	$174	6%	Not eligible	Not eligible	$0	0%	N/A	N/A
Kansas*	$207	8%	$207	8%	$162	9%	$0	0%	$45	-1%
Kentucky*	$281	10%	$281	10%	$177	10%	$0	0%	$104	1%
Louisiana*	$43	2%	$66	2%	$114	6%	-$23	-1%	-$71	-5%
Maine*	$247	9%	$244	9%	$183	10%	$3	0%	$64	-1%
Maryland*	$92	3%	$92	3%	$236	13%	$0	0%	-$144	-10%
Massachusetts*	$0	0%	$357	13%	$160	9%	-$357	-13%	-$160	-9%
Michigan*	$65	2%	$65	2%	$24	1%	$0	0%	$41	1%
Minnesota*	$82	3%	$90	3%	$53	3%	-$8	0%	$29	0%
Mississippi*	$0	0%	$196	7%	$105	6%	-$196	-7%	-$105	-6%
Missouri*	$234	9%	$234	9%	Not eligible	Not eligible	$0	0%	N/A	N/A
Montana*	$384	14%	$379	14%	$256	14%	$5	0%	$128	0%
Nebraska*	$192	7%	$191	7%	$129	7%	$1	0%	$63	0%
Nevada*	$234	9%	$234	9%	$281	15%	$0	0%	-$47	-7%
New Hampshire*	$343	13%	$339	13%	$2	0%	$4	0%	$341	12%
New Jersey*	$53	2%	$106	4%	$133	7%	-$53	-2%	-$80	-5%
New Mexico*	$0	0%	$188	7%	$115	6%	-$188	-7%	-$115	-6%
New York*	$327	12%	$327	12%	$191	10%	$0	0%	$136	1%
North Carolina*	$275	10%	$272	10%	$159	9%	$3	0%	$116	1%
North Dakota*	$170	6%	$164	6%	$293	16%	$6	0%	-$123	-10%
Ohio*	$246	9%	$241	9%	$88	5%	$5	0%	$158	4%
Oklahoma*	$0	0%	$192	7%	$146	8%	-$192	-7%	-$146	-8%
Oregon*	$0	0%	$543	20%	$319	17%	-$543	-20%	-$319	-17%
Pennsylvania*	$234	9%	$229	8%	$152	8%	$5	0%	$82	0%
Rhode Island*	$0	0%	$217	8%	$19	1%	-$217	-8%	-$19	-1%
South Carolina*	$0	0%	$48	2%	$77	4%	-$48	-2%	-$77	-4%
South Dakota*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$365	20%	$0	0%	-$365	-20%
Tennessee*	$0	0%	$195	7%	$112	6%	-$195	-7%	-$112	-6%
Texas*	$270	10%	$270	10%	$256	14%	$0	0%	$14	-4%
Utah*	$0	0%	$175	6%	$220	12%	-$175	-6%	-$220	-12%
Vermont*	$222	8%	$215	8%	$123	7%	$7	0%	$99	1%
Virginia*	$220	8%	$217	8%	$183	10%	$3	0%	$37	-2%
Washington*	$115	4%	$200	7%	$87	5%	-$85	-3%	$28	-1%
West Virginia*	$124	5%	$124	5%	$54	3%	$0	0%	$70	2%
Wisconsin*	$251	9%	$251	9%	$160	9%	$0	0%	$91	0%
Wyoming*	$38	1%	$38	1%	$98	5%	$0	0%	-$60	-4%

TABLE 3B

Parent Copayments for a Family of Three with an Income at 100 Percent of Poverty and One Child in Care

	MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2021		MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2020		MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2001		CHANGE 2020 TO 2021		CHANGE 2001 TO 2021	
	As a dollar amount	As a percent of income	As a dollar amount	As a percent of income	As a dollar amount	As a percent of income	In dollar amount	In percent of income	In dollar amount	In percent of income
Alabama*	$78	4%	$78	4%	$65	5%	$0	0%	$13	-1%
Alaska*	$0	0%	$53	3%	$14	1%	-$53	-3%	-$14	-1%
Arizona*	$65	4%	$66	4%	$65	5%	-$1	0%	$0	-2%
Arkansas*	$0	0%	$31	2%	$0	0%	-$31	-2%	$0	0%
California*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%
Colorado*	$36	2%	$36	2%	$113	9%	$0	0%	-$77	-7%
Connecticut*	$73	4%	$72	4%	$49	4%	$1	0%	$24	0%
Delaware*	$0	0%	$72	4%	$55	5%	-$72	-4%	-$55	-5%
District of Columbia*	$23	1%	$23	1%	$32	3%	$0	0%	-$9	-1%
Florida*	$90	5%	$103	6%	$69	6%	-$14	-1%	$21	-1%
Georgia*	$128	7%	$126	7%	$21	2%	$2	0%	$107	5%
Hawaii*	$480	26%	$296	16%	$0	0%	$184	10%	$480	26%
Idaho*	$25	1%	$50	3%	$65	5%	-$25	-1%	-$40	-4%
Illinois*	$90	5%	$89	5%	$65	5%	$1	0%	$25	0%
Indiana*	$92	5%	$91	5%	$0	0%	$1	0%	$92	5%
Iowa*	$9	0%	$9	0%	$22	2%	$0	0%	-$13	-1%
Kansas*	$58	3%	$58	3%	$22	2%	$0	0%	$36	1%
Kentucky*	$173	9%	$173	10%	$97	8%	$0	0%	$76	1%
Louisiana*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$49	4%	$0	0%	-$49	-4%
Maine*	$110	6%	$109	6%	$97	8%	$1	0%	$13	-2%
Maryland*	$24	1%	$24	1%	$90	7%	$0	0%	-$66	-6%
Massachusetts*	$0	0%	$173	10%	$40	3%	-$173	-10%	-$40	-3%
Michigan*	$32	2%	$32	2%	$24	2%	$0	0%	$8	0%
Minnesota*	$54	3%	$53	3%	$5	0%	$1	0%	$49	3%
Mississippi*	$0	0%	$105	6%	$47	4%	-$105	-6%	-$47	-4%
Missouri*	$108	6%	$108	6%	$43	4%	$0	0%	$65	2%
Montana*	$73	4%	$71	4%	$49	4%	$2	0%	$24	0%
Nebraska*	$128	7%	$127	7%	$30	2%	$1	0%	$98	5%
Nevada*	$78	4%	$78	4%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$78	4%
New Hampshire*	$137	8%	$136	8%	$0	0%	$2	0%	$137	8%
New Jersey*	$38	2%	$77	4%	$71	6%	-$38	-2%	-$33	-4%
New Mexico*	$0	0%	$84	5%	$47	4%	-$84	-5%	-$47	-4%
New York*	$7	0%	$11	1%	$4	0%	-$4	0%	$3	0%
North Carolina*	$183	10%	$181	10%	$106	9%	$2	0%	$77	1%
North Dakota*	$85	5%	$82	5%	$158	13%	$3	0%	-$73	-8%
Ohio*	$133	7%	$131	7%	$43	4%	$2	0%	$90	4%
Oklahoma*	$0	0%	$128	7%	$54	4%	-$128	-7%	-$54	-4%
Oregon*	$0	0%	$211	12%	$90	7%	-$211	-12%	-$90	-7%
Pennsylvania*	$139	8%	$134	7%	$65	5%	$5	0%	$74	2%
Rhode Island*	$0	0%	$36	2%	$0	0%	-$36	-2%	$0	0%
South Carolina*	$0	0%	$26	1%	$43	4%	-$26	-1%	-$43	-4%
South Dakota*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%
Tennessee*	$0	0%	$130	7%	$39	3%	-$130	-7%	-$39	-3%
Texas*	$170	9%	$170	9%	$170	14%	$0	0%	$0	-5%
Utah*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$36	3%	$0	0%	-$36	-3%
Vermont*	$7	0%	$7	0%	$0	0%	$0	0%	$7	0%
Virginia*	$110	6%	$108	6%	$122	10%	$2	0%	-$12	-4%
Washington*	$65	4%	$65	4%	$20	2%	$0	0%	$45	2%
West Virginia*	$81	4%	$81	4%	$27	2%	$0	0%	$54	2%
Wisconsin*	$128	7%	$128	7%	$61	5%	$0	0%	$67	2%
Wyoming*	$0	0%	$0	0%	$10	1%	$0	0%	-$10	-1%

NOTES FOR TABLES 3A AND 3B: PARENT COPAYMENTS

For a family of three, an income at 100 percent of poverty was equal to $14,630 a year in 2001, $21,720 a year in 2020, and $21,960 a year in 2021.

For a family of three, an income at 150 percent of poverty was equal to $21,945 a year in 2001, $32,580 a year in 2020, and $32,940 a year in 2021.

For states that calculate their copayments as a percentage of the cost of care, it is assumed that the family was purchasing care at the state's maximum base payment rate for licensed center care for a four-year-old.

A number of states waived copayments for all families in 2021 in response to the pandemic. For these states, the tables show families to have a $0 copayment, even if some of these states technically assigned a copayment value to the families and then waived it.

Monthly copayments were calculated from hourly, daily, and weekly copayments assuming the child was in care 9 hours a day, 5 days a week, 4.33 weeks a month.

Copayments for states with standard income deductions were determined based on adjusted income.

Changes in copayments were calculated using raw data, rather than the rounded numbers shown in the tables.

Data in the tables for 2021 reflect policies as of February 2021, data in the tables for 2020 reflect policies as of February 2020, and data in the tables for 2001 reflect policies as of June 2001, unless otherwise indicated. Certain changes in policies since February 2021 are noted below.

ALABAMA: Children receiving protective services and foster children are exempt from copayments. Health care workers and first responders who received a referral from their employer were also exempt from copayments in 2021. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2021.

ALASKA: Families applying for or receiving TANF, children receiving protective services, and foster children are exempt from copayments. In addition, copayments were waived for all families in February 2021 and from June through December 2021.

ARIZONA: Parents receiving TANF who are employed, families referred by the TANF Jobs Program, and children receiving protective services are exempt from copayments.

ARKANSAS: In 2020, the copayment varied with the quality level of the care a family used, with a family paying 6 percent of the cost of care if using a provider with a one-star rating in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has three star levels), 4 percent if using a two-star provider, and 2 percent if using a three-star provider. The copayment amounts for 2020 shown in the tables assume the family was using a one-star provider. (Since January 2016, all providers serving families receiving child care assistance must be at the one-star level or higher.) Also note that families receiving TANF, families in their first year of transitioning from TANF, foster children, and children receiving protective services as well as families with incomes below 40 percent of the 2018 state median income ($20,613 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020. Copayments were waived for all families in 2021.

CALIFORNIA: Families receiving TANF and families whose children are participating in the state-funded part-day prekindergarten program are exempt from copayments. Families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments for up to 12 months. Families where all children in the family receiving child care assistance remained at home, either for distance learning where all children were not receiving in-person services or for families sheltering-in-place, were exempt from copayments from September 2020 through June 2021. In addition, families with incomes up to 39 percent of the 2017 state median income ($31,944 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, families with incomes up to 39 percent of the 2018 state median income ($33,900 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2021. Copayments were waived for all families from July 2021 through June 2022.

COLORADO: Families receiving TANF and with parents enrolled in activities other than paid employment, families receiving child welfare child care, and parents without income are exempt from copayments. Families receiving protective services child care do not have a parent fee unless the child has countable income. Teen parents may have their copayment waived if it produces a hardship. Families that are experiencing homelessness do not have a parent fee assessed during a 60-day stabilization period. As of July 2021, the state adopted a new copayment schedule that reduced copayments for most families.

CONNECTICUT: Families receiving TANF and with parents participating in an approved training or education activity (but not working) are exempt from copayments. Copayments were waived for all families from April through November 2021.

DELAWARE: Families receiving TANF, grandparents who are caretakers, foster parents, and families referred from the Division of Family Services as well as families with incomes below 70 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($14,931 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020. Copayments were waived for all families in 2021.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Children receiving protective services, children experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020 and 2021.

FLORIDA: Local early learning coalitions set their copayments, subject to state approval; the copayments in the tables reflect the maximum copayment levels allowed under state policy and used by a local coalition. Also note that a coalition may, on a case-by-case basis, waive the copayment for an at-risk child or temporarily waive the copayment for a family whose income is at or below the federal poverty level and who experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the parent is participating in parenting classes.

GEORGIA: The state discounts copayments by 15 percent for families across the state using providers with ratings of one star or higher in the state's quality rating and improvement system, which has three star levels. Also note that families applying for or receiving TANF, foster children, and parents under age 18 are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 10 percent of the 2018 federal poverty level ($2,078 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020 and 2021. Copayments are waived for all families from May 2021 to October 2022.

HAWAII: Families receiving protective services and foster children are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 50 percent of the 2004 federal poverty level for Hawaii ($9,012 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020 and 2021. Families who reported they were impacted by the public health pandemic emergency were also exempt from copayments from March 2020 through September 2021. Families with essential workers are temporarily exempt from copayments as well. Also note that, as of August 2021, the state reduced copayments for families attending child care programs with National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation, National Association for Family Child Care accreditation, or National Early Childhood Program Accreditation, licensed group child care centers, or licensed infant and toddler centers.

IDAHO: Families receiving TANF that are participating in activities other than work and foster children are exempt from copayments.

ILLINOIS: Representative payees of children who are receiving TANF or general assistance benefits, who are not parents or stepparents, and who work outside the home are exempt from copayments. In addition, households in which a single parent is called to active duty or both parents are called to active duty at the same time are exempt from copayments during deployment; active duty does not include routine, one-weekend-per-month reserve duty. Families experiencing homelessness can receive two 90-day periods of child care assistance with a copayment of $1 per month under a policy that went into effect as of January 2018. The state reduced copayments to $1 per month for families with incomes at or below 100 percent of poverty as of July 2021.

INDIANA: Copayments vary depending on how long the family has been receiving child care assistance, with families paying a higher percentage of income the longer they receive assistance. The copayments shown in the tables assume it is the first year the family is receiving assistance. Also note that families participating in the state prekindergarten program, foster families, and families receiving child protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2021. Copayments were waived for all families from March 2021 through April 2022.

IOWA: The state calculates copayments based on units of care; a unit is a half day (up to 5 hours of service per 24-hour period), so 9 hours of care a day, 5 days a week, 4.33 weeks a month would equal 44 units. Also note that families receiving TANF and families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2021.

KANSAS: Families receiving TANF, families in the first two months following the loss of TANF eligibility, parents participating in the Food Assistance Education and Training work program, families receiving child care for social service reasons, and families participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 70 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($14,931 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes at or below 70 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level ($15,204 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2021.

KENTUCKY: Families needing child care for reasons of child protection or permanent placement are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below $10,788 a year, regardless of family size, were exempt from copayments in 2020 and 2021. As of October 2021, families with incomes at or below $16,788 a year were exempt from copayments.

LOUISIANA: Families receiving TANF, foster children, homeless families, and families participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program are exempt from copayments. Also note that data are not available for June 2001, so data from March 2000 are used instead.

MAINE: Copayments are waived for all families from March 2021 through September 2023.

MARYLAND: The state determines copayments based on maximum state payment rates in the region where the family lives. Also note that families receiving TANF or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits are exempt from copayments.

MASSACHUSETTS: Families receiving or transitioning from TANF, foster parents, guardians, caretakers, and families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families at the lowest income levels (in 2020, $14,160 a year for a family of three and in 2021, $21,960 a year for a family of three) are exempt from copayments. Copayments were waived for all families from March 2020 to February 2022.

MICHIGAN: Children attending a program with a three-, four-, or five-star rating in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels), families receiving TANF, children receiving protective services, foster children, families receiving SSI benefits, migrant farmworker families, and homeless families are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2017 federal poverty level ($20,420 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2021. Copayments are waived for all families from November 2021 to September 2022.

MINNESOTA: Families with incomes below 75 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($15,997 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes below 75 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level ($16,290 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2021.

MISSISSIPPI: Since April 2020 (with the exception of January and December 2021), copayments have been waived for all families. Under the state's standard policy, families receiving TANF and homeless families with no countable income are exempt from copayments, and children receiving protective services, children participating in the home visitation program, children with special needs, and parents with a disability who are receiving SSI benefits have a copayment of $10 per month.

MISSOURI: Children with disabilities who are receiving SSI benefits, children receiving services through the Department of Mental Health, children with developmental delays, foster children, adoptive children, children under court-ordered supervision, and homeless families are exempt from copayments. Copayments are waived for all families from June 2021 through September 2022.

MONTANA: Children receiving protective services are exempt from copayments.

NEBRASKA: TANF families, foster children in an out-of-home placement through protective services, and children who have subsidized adoption or guardianship agreements are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2021. Also note that after a family has had one year of continuous eligibility, 10 percent is deducted from the family's gross income in calculating the copayment.

NEVADA: Families receiving TANF and with parents participating in work or work-related activities, families receiving protective services, foster families, homeless families, and families receiving wrap-around services (services provided before and after Head Start programs) are exempt from copayments.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Children receiving child care as a preventive service if they are at risk for abuse or neglect are exempt from copayments.

NEW JERSEY: For children who are in paid foster placement, the copayment is assessed based on the income of the child, and thus almost always $0. For children who are receiving protective services and residing with a related caregiver, para-foster care provider, or in their own home with their parents, and for families experiencing homelessness, the copayment may be reduced or waived on a case-by-case basis. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2021. Copayments are waived for all families from November 2021 through October 2023.

NEW MEXICO: Grandparents or legal guardians who had taken custody/guardianship of a child and families receiving protective services and at-risk child care were exempt from copayments in 2020. Copayments were waived for all families in 2021.

NEW YORK: Local social services districts set their copayments within a state-specified range; the copayments in the tables reflect the maximum amounts allowed in that range. The state lowered the minimum and maximum amounts at which local districts could set their copayments as of April 2021. Families receiving TANF and participating in their required activity, foster families, and homeless families are exempt from copayments. In addition, families receiving protective or preventive services are exempt from copayments as of December 2021; previously, families receiving protective services, families receiving services to address domestic violence, and families participating in substance abuse treatment programs could be exempted from copayments on a case-by-case basis. Also note that data are not available for June 2001, so data from March 2000 are used instead.

NORTH CAROLINA: Children receiving protective services or child welfare services and foster families are exempt from copayments. In addition, copayments were waived for all families from March 2021 to January 2022.

NORTH DAKOTA: Families receiving services through the Crossroads program (which provides support to parents up to age 21 so they can continue their education), families receiving TANF, and families participating in ARSEN (Alternative Response for Substance Exposed Newborns) are exempt from copayments. In addition, the state started waiving copayments for all families as of March 2021 and expects to continue doing so through March 2023.

OHIO: 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 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2021.

OKLAHOMA: Families receiving TANF, foster children, children under age six adopted through the foster care system, families headed by a caretaker who is not legally or financially responsible for the children, children receiving SSI benefits, and children participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program are exempt from copayments. Children receiving protective services may be exempted from copayments on a case-by-case basis. In addition, copayments were waived for all families from April 2020 through May 2022.

OREGON: Families receiving 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 receiving services through a Head Start or Baby Promise contracted slot are exempt from copayments. In addition, copayments were waived for all families from March 2020 through September 2021. As of October 2021, the state implemented a new copayment schedule with lower copayment levels than those in place prior to the pandemic.

PENNSYLVANIA: Families receiving either TANF or SNAP benefits and with parents who are not working, but who are participating in employment and training programs, are exempt from copayments. As of January 2022, the state reduced copayments for most families.

RHODE ISLAND: Copayments were waived for all families from February 21, 2021 to March 6, 2022. Under the state's standard policy, foster children, homeless families, and families receiving TANF who have child care assistance as a supportive service are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2021. As of January 2022, the state implemented a new copayment schedule with lower copayment levels than those in place prior to the pandemic.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Copayments were waived for all families as of October 2020. Under the state's standard policy, families receiving TANF, foster children, homeless families, and dual language learners are exempt from copayments.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Families receiving TANF and children in protective custody are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with adjusted incomes at or below 160 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($34,128 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with adjusted incomes at or below 160 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level ($34,752 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2021. Copayments were waived for all families from April 2021 through September 2021.

TENNESSEE: Families receiving TANF are exempt from copayments. Families receiving Pandemic/Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance were exempt from copayments as well. In addition, copayments were waived for all families from March 2020 through August 2021.

TEXAS: Local workforce development boards set their copayments within state guidelines; the copayments in the tables reflect the maximum copayment levels used by a local board. Also note that parents participating in the TANF work program (Choices), families applying for TANF, families transitioning from TANF, families participating in the SNAP Employment and Training program, children receiving protective services, and homeless families are exempt from copayments.

UTAH: Families receiving TANF are exempt from copayments, and families transitioning from TANF are exempt from copayments for up to six months. In addition, families with adjusted incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020. The state started waiving copayments for all families as of May 2020 and expects to continue doing so through June 2023.

VERMONT: Foster children are exempt from copayments.

VIRGINIA: Families receiving TANF, families participating in the SNAP Employment and Training program, and families whose children are enrolled in Head Start and whose incomes are below the federal poverty level are exempt from copayments. In addition, copayments were waived for all families in April, May, and June 2021.

WASHINGTON: Families with children who have received child protective services, child welfare services, or a family assessment response and have been referred to child care as part of their case management and reside with their biological parents are exempt from copayments. As of October 2021, the state implemented a new copayment schedule that reduced copayments for most families.

WEST VIRGINIA: Foster families, families receiving protective services, and essential worker families are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 40 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($8,532 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020 and 2021.

WISCONSIN: Foster children, children in subsidized guardianship or with interim caretakers, children residing with a relative under a court-ordered placement, and teen parents participating in Learnfare are exempt from copayments.

WYOMING: Families with adjusted incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level ($21,330 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2020, and families with adjusted incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2020 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2021. Copayments were temporarily waived for all families as of October 2021.

TABLE 4A

State Payment Rates in 2021

	STATE PAYMENT RATES IN 2021 COMPARED TO MARKET RATES	YEAR WHEN PAYMENT RATES LAST CHANGED
Alabama	50th percentile of 2021 rates	2019
Alaska	At least the 25th percentile of 2017 rates	2019
Arizona*	50th percentile of 2010 rates/25th percentile of 2018 rates	2019
Arkansas*	11th-99th percentile of 2019 rates	2014/2020
California*	75th percentile of 2016 rates	2018
Colorado*	25th-75th percentile of 2017-18 rates	2019
Connecticut*	25th-50th percentile of 2018 rates	2019/2020
Delaware*	17th-24th percentile of 2021 rates	2019
District of Columbia*	Based on cost modeling, not market survey	2020
Florida*	Locally determined	Varies by locality
Georgia*	At least the 25th percentile of 2017 rates	2018/2019
Hawaii*	Above the 75th percentile of 2019 rates	2020
Idaho*	65th percentile of 2018 rates	2019
Illinois*	43rd-97th percentile of 2020 rates	2021
Indiana*	26th-68th percentile of 2018 rates	2014/2015/2016/2019
Iowa*	35th-80th percentile of 2017 rates	2019
Kansas*	65th-85th percentile of 2018 rates	2018/2020
Kentucky*	40th percentile of 2017 rates	2018
Louisiana*	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2020 rates	2021
Maine*	75th percentile of 2018 rates	2018
Maryland*	60th percentile of 2019 rates	2020
Massachusetts*	29th-95th percentile of 2018 rates	2020
Michigan*	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2020 rates	2020
Minnesota*	25th percentile of 2018 rates	2020
Mississippi	75th percentile of 2018 rates	2018
Missouri*	58th percentile of 2018 rates	2019
Montana*	75th percentile of 2016 rates	2018/2020
Nebraska*	At least the 60th percentile of 2019 rates	2019
Nevada*	55th-75th percentile of 2015 rates	2016/2019
New Hampshire*	55th-60th percentile of 2019 rates	2019
New Jersey*	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2017 rates	2020/2021
New Mexico*	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2015 rates	2014/2015
New York	69th percentile of 2017-18 rates	2019
North Carolina*	75th or 100th percentile of 2015 rates	2017/2018
North Dakota*	75th percentile of 2017 rates	2018
Ohio*	At least the 25th percentile of 2018 rates	2019
Oklahoma*	50th-75th percentile of 2017 rates	2018/2020
Oregon*	50th-78th percentile of 2018 rates	2019
Pennsylvania*	0th-100th percentile of 2018 rates	2018
Rhode Island*	40th-90th percentile of 2018 rates	2020
South Carolina*	75th-90th percentile of 2017 rates	2018
South Dakota*	75th percentile of 2019 rates	2020
Tennessee*	25th-66th percentile of 2018-19 rates	2019/2020
Texas*	30th-75th percentile of 2020 rates	2020
Utah*	80th percentile of 2017 rates	2020
Vermont*	3rd-28th percentile of 2019 rates	2019/2020
Virginia	70th percentile of 2018 rates	2018
Washington*	65th-75th percentile of 2018 rates	2020
West Virginia*	75th percentile of 2015 rates	2016
Wisconsin*	At least the 35th percentile of 2019 rates	2019
Wyoming*	At least the 25th percentile of 2017 rates	2019

TABLE 4B

State Payment Rates Compared to the 75th Percentile of Current Market Rates in 2021, 2020, and 2001

	RATES EQUAL TO OR ABOVE THE 75TH PERCENTILE OF CURRENT MARKET RATES...		
	IN 2021?	IN 2020?	IN 2001?
Alabama	No	No	Yes
Alaska	No	No	No
Arizona	No	No	No
Arkansas	No	No	Yes
California	No	No	Yes
Colorado*	No	No	Yes
Connecticut	No	No	No
Delaware	No	No	No
District of Columbia	No	No	No
Florida*	No	No	Yes
Georgia	No	No	No
Hawaii*	Yes	No	No
Idaho	No	No	Yes
Illinois*	No	No	No
Indiana	No	No	Yes
Iowa*	No	No	No
Kansas*	No	No	No
Kentucky	No	No	Yes
Louisiana	No	No	Yes
Maine*	No	Yes	Yes
Maryland	No	No	Yes
Massachusetts*	No	No	No
Michigan*	No	No	No
Minnesota	No	No	Yes
Mississippi	No	No	Yes
Missouri	No	No	No
Montana*	No	No	No
Nebraska	No	No	No
Nevada	No	No	Yes
New Hampshire	No	No	No
New Jersey*	No	No	No
New Mexico	No	No	No
New York	No	No	Yes
North Carolina*	No	No	No
North Dakota*	No	No	Yes
Ohio	No	No	No
Oklahoma	No	No	No
Oregon	No	No	No
Pennsylvania	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	Yes
South Carolina*	No	No	No
South Dakota*	Yes	No	Yes
Tennessee	No	No	No
Texas*	No	No	Yes
Utah*	No	No	No
Vermont*	No	No	No
Virginia	No	No	No
Washington	No	No	No
West Virginia*	No	No	Yes
Wisconsin*	No	No	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	Yes

TABLE 4C

Change in State Base Payment Rates Between 2020 and 2021

		CENTER CARE FOR A FOUR-YEAR-OLD			CENTER CARE FOR A ONE-YEAR-OLD		
		Monthly state base payment rate in 2020	Monthly state base payment rate in 2021	Change in base payment rate 2020 to 2021	Monthly state base payment rate in 2020	Monthly state base payment rate in 2021	Change in base payment rate 2020 to 2021
Alabama	Birmingham Region	$598	$598	$0	$650	$650	$0
Alaska	Anchorage	$755	$755	$0	$980	$980	$0
Arizona*	Maricopa County (Phoenix)	$693	$693	$0	$795	$795	$0
Arkansas*	Urban Areas	$511	$511	$0	$618	$618	$0
California*	Los Angeles County	$1,124	$1,124	$0	$1,594	$1,594	$0
Colorado*	Denver County	$915	$915	$0	$1,207	$1,207	$0
Connecticut*	North Central Region	$879	$879	$0	$1,321	$1,321	$0
Delaware*	New Castle County	$687	$687	$0	$763	$763	$0
District of Columbia*	Citywide	$1,058	$1,404	$346	$1,417	$1,880	$463
Florida*	Miami-Dade County	$530	$530	$0	$587	$644	$58
Georgia*	Zone 1	$537	$537	$0	$624	$624	$0
Hawaii*	Statewide	$740	$1,200	$460	$1,490	$2,000	$510
Idaho*	Cluster 3 (Boise)	$650	$650	$0	$726	$726	$0
Illinois*	Metropolitan Region	$776	$823	$47	$1,102	$1,212	$111
Indiana*	Marion County (Indianapolis)	$762	$762	$0	$966	$966	$0
Iowa*	Statewide	$649	$649	$0	$748	$748	$0
Kansas*	Sedgwick County	$571	$571	$0	$740	$801	$60
Kentucky*	Jefferson County	$541	$541	$0	$606	$606	$0
Louisiana*	Statewide	$476	$650	$173	$514	$672	$158
Maine*	Cumberland County	$1,121	$1,121	$0	$1,312	$1,312	$0
Maryland*	Region W	$823	$935	$113	$1,108	$1,299	$191
Massachusetts*	Northeast (Region 3)	$1,019	$1,039	$20	$1,621	$1,653	$32
Michigan*	Statewide	$594	$838	$244	$838	$1,179	$341
Minnesota*	Hennepin County	$870	$1,018	$147	$1,160	$1,321	$160
Mississippi	Statewide	$440	$440	$0	$480	$480	$0
Missouri*	St. Louis	$628	$628	$0	$816	$816	$0
Montana*	Statewide	$758	$758	$0	$866	$866	$0
Nebraska*	Urban Counties	$849	$849	$0	$974	$974	$0
Nevada*	Clark County	$779	$779	$0	$823	$823	$0
New Hampshire*	Statewide	$854	$854	$0	$1,083	$1,083	$0
New Jersey*	Statewide	$690	$1,007	$317	$994	$1,324	$330
New Mexico*	Statewide	$491	$491	$0	$721	$721	$0
New York	New York City	$1,251	$1,251	$0	$1,758	$1,758	$0
North Carolina*	Mecklenburg County	$881	$881	$0	$963	$963	$0
North Dakota*	Statewide	$720	$720	$0	$790	$790	$0
Ohio*	Franklin County	$712	$712	$0	$909	$909	$0
Oklahoma*	Statewide	$292	$476	$184	$336	$541	$205
Oregon*	Group Area A (Portland)	$1,060	$1,060	$0	$1,415	$1,415	$0
Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia	$725	$725	$0	$902	$902	$0
Rhode Island*	Statewide	$718	$847	$130	$859	$1,115	$256
South Carolina*	Urban Areas	$701	$701	$0	$801	$801	$0
South Dakota*	Minnehaha County	$702	$741	$39	$790	$819	$29
Tennessee*	Top Tier Counties	$515	$524	$9	$771	$771	$0
Texas*	Gulf Coast Area	$547	$571	$24	$727	$727	$0
Utah*	Statewide	$585	$689	$104	$900	$936	$36
Vermont*	Statewide	$716	$739	$23	$866	$866	$0
Virginia	Fairfax County	$1,516	$1,516	$0	$1,775	$1,775	$0
Washington*	King County	$1,203	$1,380	$177	$1,302	$1,496	$194
West Virginia*	Statewide	$606	$606	$0	$693	$693	$0
Wisconsin*	Milwaukee County	$921	$921	$0	$1,189	$1,189	$0
Wyoming*	Statewide	$541	$541	$0	$606	$606	$0

TABLE 4D

State Payment Rates in 2021 Compared to Market Rates for Child Care Centers

		CENTER CARE FOR A FOUR-YEAR-OLD					CENTER CARE FOR A ONE-YEAR-OLD				
		Monthly state payment rate	75th percentile of market rates	Year of market rates	Difference between state rate and 75th percentile	Percentage difference between state rate and 75th percentile	Monthly state payment rate	75th percentile of market rates	Year of market rates	Difference between state rate and 75th percentile	Percentage difference between state rate and 75th percentile
Alabama	Birmingham Region	$598	$779	2021	-$181	-23%	$650	$844	2021	-$194	-23%
Alaska	Anchorage	$755	$1,073	2020-21	-$318	-30%	$980	$1,217	2020-21	-$237	-19%
Arizona*	Maricopa County (Phoenix)	$704	$883	2018	-$179	-20%	$808	$999	2018	-$191	-19%
Arkansas*	Urban Areas	$511	$650	2019	-$139	-21%	$618	$736	2019	-$118	-16%
California*	Los Angeles County	$1,124	$1,253	2018	-$129	-10%	$1,594	$1,688	2018	-$94	-6%
Colorado*	Denver County	$1,169	$1,169	2017-18	$0	0%	$1,700	$1,700	2017-18	$0	0%
Connecticut	North Central Region	$879	$1,225	2018	-$346	-28%	$1,321	$1,477	2018	-$156	-11%
Delaware*	New Castle County	$1,058	$1,061	2021	-$3	0%	$1,197	$1,405	2021	-$208	-15%
District of Columbia*	Citywide	$1,404	$1,409	2012	-$5	0%	$1,880	$1,829	2012	$51	3%
Florida*	Miami-Dade County	$655	$736	2019	-$81	-11%	$785	$779	2019	$5	1%
Georgia*	Zone 1	$644	$885	2017	-$241	-27%	$748	$997	2017	-$248	-25%
Hawaii*	Statewide	$1,200	$970	2019	$230	24%	$2,000	$1,930	2019	$70	4%
Idaho*	Cluster 2 (Boise)	$650	$700	2018	-$50	-7%	$726	$782	2018	-$56	-7%
Illinois*	Metropolitan Region	$823	$1,204	2020	-$381	-32%	$1,212	$1,484	2020	-$271	-18%
Indiana*	Marion County (Indianapolis)	$992	$1,058	2020	-$66	-6%	$1,351	$1,333	2020	$18	1%
Iowa*	Statewide	$649	$880	2020	-$231	-26%	$748	$1,021	2020	-$273	-27%
Kansas*	Sedgwick County	$571	$678	2020	-$107	-16%	$801	$840	2020	-$39	-5%
Kentucky*	Jefferson County	$541	$844	2020	-$303	-36%	$606	$953	2020	-$347	-36%
Louisiana*	Statewide	$650	$687	2020	-$38	-6%	$672	$736	2020	-$64	-9%
Maine*	Cumberland County	$1,121	$1,139	2021	-$18	-2%	$1,312	$1,083	2021	$229	21%
Maryland*	Region W	$935	$1,015	2019	-$80	-8%	$1,299	$1,429	2019	-$130	-9%
Massachusetts*	Northeast (Region 3)	$1,039	$1,450	2018	-$411	-28%	$1,653	$1,940	2018	-$287	-15%
Michigan*	Statewide	$1,042	$1,039	2020	$4	0%	$1,383	$1,216	2020	$168	14%
Minnesota*	Hennepin County	$1,221	$1,438	2020-21	-$217	-15%	$1,585	$1,849	2020-21	-$264	-14%
Mississippi	Statewide	$440	$541	2021	-$101	-19%	$480	$585	2021	-$105	-18%
Missouri*	St. Louis	$628	$1,083	2018	-$455	-42%	$816	$1,408	2018	-$592	-42%
Montana*	Statewide	$796	$866	2020	-$70	-8%	$909	$974	2020	-$65	-7%
Nebraska*	Urban Counties	$849	$974	2021	-$126	-13%	$974	$1,191	2021	-$217	-18%
Nevada*	Clark County	$801	$932	2018	-$131	-14%	$844	$1,144	2018	-$300	-26%
New Hampshire*	Statewide	$854	$1,034	2021	-$180	-17%	$1,083	$1,277	2021	-$195	-15%
New Jersey*	Statewide	$1,007	$1,055	2017	-$48	-5%	$1,324	$1,300	2017	$24	2%
New Mexico*	Statewide	$841	$894	2018	-$53	-6%	$1,271	$998	2018	$273	27%
New York	New York City	$1,251	$1,407	2017-18	-$156	-11%	$1,758	$1,840	2017-18	-$82	-4%
North Carolina*	Mecklenburg County	$1,035	$1,153	2017	-$118	-10%	$1,194	$1,278	2017	-$84	-7%
North Dakota*	Statewide	$720	$811	2021	-$91	-11%	$790	$913	2021	-$123	-13%
Ohio*	Franklin County	$778	$1,061	2020	-$283	-27%	$993	$1,299	2020	-$306	-24%
Oklahoma*	Statewide	$602	$606	2017	-$4	-1%	$836	$801	2017	$35	4%
Oregon*	Group Area A (Portland)	$1,114	$1,346	2020	-$232	-17%	$1,469	$1,680	2020	-$211	-13%
Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia	$725	$844	2018	-$120	-14%	$902	$996	2018	-$94	-9%
Rhode Island*	Statewide	$847	$996	2018	-$149	-15%	$1,115	$1,141	2018	-$26	-2%
South Carolina*	Urban Areas	$723	$827	2020	-$104	-13%	$823	$931	2020	-$108	-12%
South Dakota*	Minnehaha County	$741	$741	2019	$0	0%	$819	$819	2019	$0	0%
Tennessee*	Top Tier Counties	$628	$823	2019-2020	-$195	-24%	$927	$996	2019-2020	-$69	-7%
Texas*	Gulf Coast Area	$571	$883	2021	-$312	-35%	$727	$1,022	2021	-$295	-29%
Utah*	Statewide	$689	$752	2021	-$63	-8%	$936	$999	2021	-$63	-6%
Vermont*	Statewide	$1,035	$1,191	2019	-$156	-13%	$1,126	$1,256	2019	-$130	-10%
Virginia	Fairfax County	$1,516	$1,559	2018	-$43	-3%	$1,775	$1,819	2018	-$44	-2%
Washington*	King County	$1,490	$1,495	2018	-$5	0%	$1,616	$1,720	2018	-$104	-6%
West Virginia*	Statewide	$606	$693	2020	-$87	-13%	$693	$758	2020	-$65	-9%
Wisconsin*	Milwaukee County	$930	$1,126	2017	-$196	-17%	$1,201	$1,478	2017	-$278	-19%
Wyoming*	Statewide	$541	$650	2017	-$108	-17%	$606	$750	2017	-$144	-19%

TABLE 4E

State Tiered Payment Rates for Center Care for a Four-Year-Old in 2021

		Number of quality tier levels (including base rate)	Payment rate for lowest tier	Payment rate for highest tier	Payment rates between highest and lowest tiers	Difference between lowest and higher tiers	Percentage difference between lowest and higher tiers	75th percentile of market rates	Difference between highest rate and 75th percentile	Percentage difference between highest rate and 75th percentile
Alabama	Birmingham Region	6	$598	$658	$611, $624, $632, $645	$61	10%	$779	-$121	-16%
Alaska	Anchorage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arizona*	Maricopa County (Phoenix)	4	$693	$831	$727, $762	$139	20%	$883	-$52	-6%
Arkansas*	Urban Areas	3	$511	$604	$536	$93	18%	$650	-$45	-7%
California	Los Angeles County	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Colorado*	Denver County	3	$915	$1,169	$947	$254	28%	$1,169	$0	0%
Connecticut	North Central Region	2	$879	$923	N/A	$44	5%	$1,225	-$302	-25%
Delaware*	New Castle County	4	$687	$1,058	$837, $968	$371	54%	$1,061	-$3	0%
District of Columbia*	Citywide	4	$1,404	$1,767	$1,464, $1,639	$363	26%	$1,409	$358	25%
Florida*	Miami-Dade County	8	$530	$693	$551, $567, $583, $630, $655, $674	$163	31%	$736	-$43	-6%
Georgia*	Zone 1	4	$537	$752	$591, $644	$215	40%	$885	-$133	-15%
Hawaii*	Statewide	2	$1,200	$1,500	N/A	$300	25%	$985	$515	52%
Idaho	Cluster 2 (Boise)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Illinois*	Metropolitan Region	3	$823	$946	$905	$123	15%	$1,204	-$258	-21%
Indiana*	Marion County (Indianapolis)	4	$762	$1,065	$914, $992	$303	40%	$1,058	$7	1%
Iowa*	Statewide	4	$649	$822	$682, $722	$173	27%	$880	-$58	-7%
Kansas	Sedgwick County	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kentucky*	Jefferson County	4	$541	$628	See notes	$86	16%	$844	-$217	-26%
Louisiana*	Statewide	5	$650	$799	$662, $721, $757	$149	23%	$687	$111	16%
Maine*	Cumberland County	4	$1,121	$1,234	$1,144, $1,178	$112	10%	$1,139	$94	8%
Maryland*	Region W	4	$935	$1,178	$1,029, $1,113	$243	26%	$1,015	$163	16%
Massachusetts*	Northeast (Region 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Michigan*	Statewide	5	$838	$1,247	$906, $1,043, $1,111	$409	49%	$1,039	$208	20%
Minnesota*	Hennepin County	3	$1,018	$1,221	$1,170	$204	20%	$1,438	-$217	-15%
Mississippi*	Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Missouri*	St. Louis	2	$628	$753	N/A	$126	20%	$1,083	-$330	-30%
Montana*	Statewide	5	$758	$909	$796, $834, $871	$152	20%	$866	$43	5%
Nebraska*	Urban Counties	7	$849	$1,024	$891, $929, $936, $975, $983	$175	21%	$974	$50	5%
Nevada*	Clark County	5	$779	$866	$801, $823, $844	$87	11%	$932	-$66	-7%
New Hampshire*	Statewide	3	$854	$939	$896	$85	10%	$1,034	-$95	-9%
New Jersey*	Statewide	5	$1,007	$1,134	$1,043, $1,064, $1,094	$127	13%	$1,055	$79	8%
New Mexico*	Statewide	5	$491	$841	$579, $591, $741	$350	71%	$894	-$53	-6%
New York*	New York City	2	$1,251	$1,439	N/A	$188	15%	$1,407	$32	2%
North Carolina*	Mecklenburg County	4	$477	$1,035	$881, $939	$558	117%	$1,153	-$118	-10%
North Dakota	Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ohio*	Franklin County	7	$712	$1,000	$778, $784, $874, $896, $956	$288	40%	$1,061	-$61	-6%
Oklahoma*	Statewide	4	$476	$654	$509, $602	$178	37%	$645	$9	1%
Oregon*	Group Area A (Portland)	4	$1,060	$1,150	$1,114, $1,132	$90	8%	$1,346	-$196	-15%
Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia	4	$725	$924	$745, $852	$199	27%	$844	$80	9%
Rhode Island*	Statewide	2	$847	$1,126	N/A	$279	33%	$996	$130	13%
South Carolina*	Urban Areas	5	$701	$788	$723, $745, $766	$87	12%	$827	-$39	-5%
South Dakota	Minnehaha County	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tennessee*	Top Tier Counties	4	$524	$628	$550, $602	$104	20%	$823	-$195	-24%
Texas*	Gulf Coast Area	4	$571	$806	$653, $726	$235	41%	$883	-$77	-9%
Utah*	Statewide	3	$689	$889	$864	$200	29%	$752	$137	18%
Vermont*	Statewide	6	$739	$1,035	$776, $813, $887, $961	$296	40%	$1,191	-$156	-13%
Virginia*	Fairfax County	2	$1,516	$1,622	N/A	$106	7%	$1,559	$63	4%
Washington*	King County	5	$1,380	$1,656	$1,407, $1,490, $1,587	$276	20%	$1,495	$161	11%
West Virginia*	Statewide	3	$606	$693	$650	$87	14%	$693	$0	0%
Wisconsin*	Milwaukee County	4	$921	$1,209	$930, $1,069	$288	31%	$1,126	$83	7%
Wyoming	Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

NOTES FOR TABLES 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, AND 4E: PAYMENT RATES

State payment rates are compared to the 75th percentile of market rates (the rate designed to allow families access to 75 percent of providers in their community) because federal regulations recommend that rates be set at this level. A state's payment rates are only considered to be at the federally recommended level if rates for all (or nearly all) categories—such as different regions, age groups, types of care, and quality levels (including the base rate)—are at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates.

In this report, a state is considered to have rates that were based on current market prices if the market survey used to set its rates was conducted no more than two years earlier (so, for example, rates used in 2021 are considered current if set at the 75th percentile of 2019 or more recent market rates).

States were asked to report payment rates and the 75th percentile of market rates for their most populous city, county, or region. Monthly rates were calculated from hourly, daily, and weekly rates assuming the child was in care 9 hours a day, 5 days a week, 4.33 weeks a month.

Differences between state payment rates and the 75th percentile, and changes in payment rates between 2020 and 2021, were calculated using raw data, rather than the rounded numbers shown in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e.

For states that pay higher rates for higher-quality care, the base rate for each state is used for the data analysis in Table 4c, and the most common rate level (the level representing the greatest number of providers) for each state is used for the data analysis in Table 4d, unless otherwise indicated. The rates analyzed in the tables do not reflect other types of higher rates or rate enhancements, such as higher rates paid for care for children with special needs or care during nontraditional hours.

Data in the tables for 2021 reflect policies as of February 2021, data in the tables for 2020 reflect policies as of February 2020, and data in the tables for 2001 reflect policies as of June 2001, unless otherwise indicated. Certain changes in policies since February 2021 are noted below.

ARIZONA: The state increased payment rates to the 75th percentile of 2018 market rates for children birth through age two and to the 50th percentile of 2018 market rates for children ages three and older as of October 2021. Prior to that, the state had last increased base rates—from the 75th percentile of 2000 market rates to the 50th percentile of 2010 market rates or the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates, whichever was higher—as of June 2019. The state also increased its tiered payment rates to 35 percent above the base rate for providers that are accredited or that have a three-, four-, or five-star rating under the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels), and to 20 percent above the base rate for certified family child care and in-home providers with a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, as of October 2021. Prior to that, the state had tiered rates that were 5 percent above the base rate for three-star providers, 10 percent above the base rate for four-star providers and providers with a CDA, and 20 percent above the base rate for nationally accredited and five-star providers.

ARKANSAS: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child and region. The state began providing higher payment rates for higher-quality care under the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has three star levels) in June 2014. The state then began requiring all providers serving families receiving child care assistance to have a rating of one star or higher as of January 2016. The previous base rate, which had not been increased since 2007 and was paid to providers that did not meet the criteria for a star rating, was eliminated; the base rate is now the rate for one-star providers. The payment rates in Table 4e reflect that the state increased rates for three-star providers caring for preschoolers in 2020. The state increased its base and tiered rates as of September 2021.

CALIFORNIA: The state set payment rates for licensed care at the 75th percentile of 2016 market rates (unless existing rates were higher, in which case they were not changed) as of January 2018. The state increased payment rates for licensed care to the 75th percentile of 2018 market rates (unless existing rates were higher, in which case they were not changed) as of January 2022. Payment rates for license-exempt family child care have been set at 70 percent of payment rates for licensed family child care since January 2017.

COLORADO: As of July 2019, counties were required to set payment rates at the 10th percentile of market rates for providers that are at levels one and two of the state's quality rating and improvement system and that are caring for preschool- and school-age children, the 25th percentile for providers that are at levels one and two and that are caring for infants and toddlers, the 50th percentile for providers at level three, and the 75th percentile for providers at levels four and five. (Previously, the state recommended—but did not require—these payment rate levels. Counties still set their own rates for alternative rate types such as before- and after-school, overnight, and weekend rates, if they choose to offer these rates). As of September 2021, the state increased payment rates by 5 percent, with additional increases for licensed care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to reflect the higher costs of care for these age groups.

CONNECTICUT: The state increased payment rates to at least the 50th percentile of 2018 market rates for child care centers, group child care homes, and license-exempt relative providers serving infants and toddlers, and to at least the 25th percentile for child care centers, group child care homes, and license-exempt relative providers serving preschool-age children as of September 2019. In addition, as a result of union contract negotiations, the state increased rates for licensed family child care by 2.5 percent and license-exempt relative providers by 1.25 percent as of July 2019, and again increased rates for licensed family child care by 2.5 percent and license-exempt relative providers by 1.25 percent as of July 2020.

DELAWARE: The state increased base and tiered payment rates as of October 2019. The state increased payment rates once again as of July 2021. Also note that the state has five quality rating levels, but only four different payment rate tiers; providers at both quality level one and quality level two (as well as providers that do not have a quality rating) receive the base rate.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The District increased base and tiered payment rates—and increased the number of tiers from three to four—as of October 2018. The District based these rate increases on a cost estimation model, which assesses the cost of delivering child care services at different levels of quality, in different settings, and serving children of differing ages and needs. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the District temporarily increased rates from November 2020 through September 2021.

FLORIDA: Local early learning coalitions determine their payment rates and when to update them; the payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that Miami-Dade County increased rates for infant care in January 2021. The state's tiered payment rate levels include the base level and a level for programs with a Gold Seal Quality Care designation, as well as levels that are 4 percent, 7 percent, and 10 percent above the base level or Gold Seal level for those providers that achieve certain scores using CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System®). The state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at the base level and at the Gold Seal level; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the most common rate level (Gold Seal plus a 4 percent bonus) is compared to the 75th percentile for the Gold Seal Level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level (the Gold Star level plus a 10 percent bonus) is compared to the 75th percentile for the Gold Seal level.

GEORGIA: Zone 1 includes Camden, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale Counties. The state set base rates for care for infants and toddlers at the 25th percentile of 2017 market rates as of December 2018, and set base rates for care for preschool- and school-age children at the 25th percentile of 2017 market rates as of September 2019. As of November 2021, rates for higher-quality care were increased from 10 percent to 25 percent above the base rate for programs with one star ratings under the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has three levels), from 20 percent to 35 percent above the base rate for two-star programs, and from 40 percent to 55 percent above the base rate for three-star programs; these increases are scheduled to be in effect through September 2024.

HAWAII: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state temporarily increased rates as of August 2020; these payment rates are scheduled to be in effect until at least June 2022. Prior to the temporary increase, the state had last increased payment rates for licensed center care and license-exempt before- and after-school care in 2017, last increased rates for license-exempt relative and non-relative care in 2010, and last increased rates for licensed family child care in 2008. Also note that the state has higher rates for accredited center care for children over age 24 months through the time the children are eligible to enroll in kindergarten or junior kindergarten (usually age five by the end of the calendar year, depending on the child's birth date). The state began implementing higher rates for accredited family child care as of August 2021. The state does not have accredited rates for center care for infants and toddlers. For center care for preschool-age children, the state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at each quality level; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the base level (the most common rate level) is compared to the 75th percentile for that same quality level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level (the accredited rate) is compared to the 75th percentile for that quality level.

IDAHO: Cluster 2 includes Ada, Blaine, Boise, Bonner, Bonneville, Latah, Lewis, Teton, and Valley Counties. The state increased payment rates as of October 2021. Prior to that, the state had last increased payment rates in February 2019.

ILLINOIS: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, and region. Payment rates are reported for the Metropolitan Region (referred to as Group 1A), which includes Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry Counties. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased rates as of January 2021. The state increased payment rates again as of July 2021.

INDIANA: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, and county. The state increased all payment rates in May 2014. It then increased payment rates for license-exempt providers in September 2015; increased payment rates for providers at levels two, three, and four of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has four levels) in September 2016; and increased rates for infant and toddler care in June 2019 and again in September 2019. The state temporarily increased payment rates by 20 percent as of April 2021; the increase is expected to remain in effect until October 2022.

IOWA: The state increased base payment rates, increased rates for providers at quality level five of the state's quality rating and improvement system to at least the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates, and introduced two new tiered rate levels for providers at quality levels one through four, as of January 2019. The state then increased payment rates based on 2020 market rates as of July 2021; payment rates range from the 50th to 75th percentile of 2020 market rates, depending on the tiered rate level. Also note that the state calculates payments based on units of care; a unit is a half day (up to 5 hours of service per 24-hour period), so 9 hours of care a day, 5 days a week, 4.33 weeks a month would equal 44 units.

KANSAS: The state increased payment rates to an average of the 65th percentile of 2017 market rates as of November 2018. (Rates for individual counties ranged from below the 5th percentile to above the 100th percentile of market rates.) The state increased rates for infants ages 18 months and younger being cared for in a relative's home or in licensed family or group child care, and for infants and toddlers ages 30 months and younger being cared for in child care centers, to an average of the 85th percentile of 2018 market rates as of April 2020; the payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect this increase in rates for center care for infants and toddlers. The state increased rates for all age groups to an average of the 85th percentile of 2020 market rates as of April 2022.

KENTUCKY: The state increased payment rates as of July 2021 and again as of October 2021. Prior to that, the state had last increased rates as of December 2018. Also note that under the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels), the amount of the bonus at each quality level varies by the type of care and the age of the child. For example, for care for four-year-olds, the bonus above the base rate is $23 per month for three-star licensed centers, $33 per month for four-star licensed centers, and $43 per month for five-star licensed centers. (One- and two-star providers do not receive a bonus above the base rate.) In addition, accredited providers can receive, to the extent funds are available, an additional $2 per day on top of their quality bonus. The highest rate shown in Table 4e assumes that the provider was at the five-star level and was accredited.

LOUISIANA: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates as of February 2021. The state increased base rates again as of February 2022. Also note that, although shown in Table 4e as incorporated into the monthly payment rate, bonuses for higher-quality care are paid quarterly. The bonuses are 2 percent above the base rate for a center at the two-star level of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels), 11 percent above the base rate for three-star centers, 16.5 percent above the base rate for four-star centers, and 23 percent above the base rate for five-star centers. Family child care providers are not eligible for bonuses.

MAINE: The state increased base payment rates to the 75th percentile of 2018 market rates as of June 2018. The state increased base payment rates to at least the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates as of July 2021. The state also temporarily increased tiered rate differentials—from 2 percent to 3 percent above the base rate for providers at step two of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has four levels), from 5 percent to 10 percent above the base rate for providers at step three, and from 10 percent to 15 percent above the base rate for providers at step four—as of October 2021; this increase in tiered rates is expected to remain in effect through September 2023.

MARYLAND: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates from at least the 30th percentile of 2019 market rates to at least the 60th percentile of 2019 market rates as of November 2020. Also note that Region W includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, and Prince George's Counties.

MASSACHUSETTS: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, and region. The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased rates multiple times between February 2020 and February 2021, including a 3.52 percent increase in rates for family child care as of March 2020 (retroactive to July 2019); an additional 1 percent increase in rates for all providers as of March 2020 (retroactive to July 2019); a 2 percent increase in rates for family child care as of July 2020; and a 2 percent increase for center care as of March 2021 (retroactive to July 2020). The state increased payment rates by another 2 percent for family child care as of July 2021, based on a collective bargaining agreement with the family child care union, and increased payment rates by 4 percent for centers and family child care networks as of December 2021 (retroactive to July 2021). Also note that the state pays higher rates (3 percent above the base rate) for center care and family child care at level two or above of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has four levels) for children up to 2.9 years old.

MICHIGAN: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child and type of care. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state temporarily increased rates by 40 percent from September 2020 through September 2021. As of October 2021, the state set rates equal to 30 percent above the rates in place prior to September 2020. The state then implemented additional temporary increases of 50 percent from October 10, 2021 to April 9, 2022, 40 percent from April 10, 2022 to October 8, 2022, and 30 percent from October 9, 2022 to April 8, 2023. As of April 9, 2023, payment rates will revert to the rate level set in October 2021 (30 percent above pre-September 2020 rates), without any supplementary increases.

MINNESOTA: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base payment rates from the 25th percentile of 2011 market rates to at least the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates (if not already at or above that level) as of September 2020. The state increased base payment rates to the 40th percentile of 2021 market rates for care for infants and toddlers and to the 30th percentile of 2021 market rates for care for preschool- and school-age children (if not already at or above those levels) as of November 2021.

MISSISSIPPI: Table 4e reflects that, as of February 2020, the state discontinued a pilot program, started in 2019, that paid tiered rates to centers meeting a set of quality standards, designated as comprehensive centers.

MONTANA: The state increased base payment rates to the 75th percentile of 2016 market rates, and changed from using regional rates to using statewide rates, as of October 2018. The state temporarily increased rates for care for school-age children, so that they were equal to the rates for care for preschool-age children, from August 2020 through June 2021. The state increased base payment rates to the 75th percentile of 2020 market rates as of July 2021. Also note that data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 2000 are used instead for Table 4b.

NEBRASKA: The state increased base payment rates from at least the 60th percentile of 2019 market rates to at least the 60th percentile of 2021 market rates as of July 2021. Also note that, under the state's tiered rates system, non-accredited providers are paid at the base rate if they do not participate in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) or are at step one or two of the system, 5 percent above the base rate once they reach step three, 5 percent above the rate for step three once they reach step four, and 5 percent above the rate for step four once they reach step five; accredited providers are paid at the accredited rate if they do not participate in the quality rating and improvement system or are at step one, two, or three, 5 percent above the accredited rate once they reach step four, and 5 percent above the accredited rate for step four once they reach step five. Urban Counties include Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties.

NEVADA: In October 2016, the state set payment rates for providers with five stars (the highest quality level) in the state's quality rating and improvement system at the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates. In February 2019, the state increased payment rates to the 55th percentile of 2015 market rates for one-star providers, 60th percentile for two-star providers, 65th percentile for three-star providers, and 70th percentile for four-star providers. In March 2019, base payment rates (which apply to licensed providers not assigned a quality rating) were increased from the 75th percentile of 2004 market rates to the 55th percentile of 2015 market rates (equal to the payment rate for one-star providers). In October 2021, base payment rates for all providers (except for providers offering wrap-around services) were increased to the 55th percentile of 2018 market rates, and tiered payment rates were increased as well.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: The state increased payment rates based on an updated market rate survey as of July 2021.

NEW JERSEY: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child and type of care. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates and tiered rates for center care as of January 2021. The rates also reflect a temporary supplemental payment of $300 per month for all providers implemented as of September 2020; these payments, now referred to as differential payments, were discontinued for approved homes (family, friend, and neighbor and in-home providers) as of December 2021, but continued for other providers. The state increased base rates and tiered rates for center care again as of November 2021. The state increased base rates and tiered rates for center care, registered family child care, and approved home providers as of January 2022. Prior to that, the state had last increased payment rates for registered family child care and approved home providers in August 2014. The state has tiered rates for accredited care provided by centers, school-age care providers, and family child care homes. The state also has tiered rates for licensed centers that have three-, four-, and five-star ratings under the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) and that serve infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children; school-age care and family child care providers are not eligible for these tiered rates. Also note that data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 2000 are used instead for Table 4b.

NEW MEXICO: The state increased payment rates for care for infants and toddlers and established new quality tiers, with rates at the highest quality levels exceeding the previous highest rates, as of July 2014. The state raised payment rates for rural areas so that they equaled rates for metro areas as of January 2015, and now uses a single set of rates statewide. The state increased base rates for licensed care for preschool- and school-age children, as well as rate differentials at the top two quality levels for center care for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children, as of October 2015. The state increased base and tiered payment rates based on a cost estimation model as of July 2021. Also note that the state's 2018 market rate survey differentiated between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates was obtained for providers at each quality level of the state's quality rating and improvement system; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the most common rate level is compared to the 75th percentile for that same quality level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level is compared to the 75th percentile for that quality level.

NEW YORK: Local social services districts may set payment rates for accredited providers that are up to 15 percent higher than base rates.

NORTH CAROLINA: The state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at each quality level of the state's quality rating and improvement system; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the most common rate level is compared to the 75th percentile for that same quality level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level is compared to the 75th percentile for that quality level. There are five star levels in the state's quality rating and improvement system, which is mandatory for all licensed providers, except those that are religious sponsored. One- and two-star providers are no longer eligible to serve children receiving child care assistance. Religious-sponsored providers not participating in the quality rating and improvement system and new providers with a temporary license are paid at the rate previously used for one-star providers; this rate was set based on 2003 market rate survey data. While Table 4c shows the base rate for most states, the rate for three-star centers is shown for North Carolina since the state generally requires providers to be at least that quality level to serve children receiving child care assistance. Also note that the state's 100 counties are ranked based on economic well-being and assigned a tier designation, with the 40 most distressed counties designated as tier one, the next 40 as tier two, and the 20 least distressed as tier three; Mecklenburg County is a tier three county. The state increased payment rates for three-, four-, and five-star licensed care for children birth through age two in tier three counties, as well as for school-age children in tier one and tier two counties, to the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates as of October 2017. The state then increased payment rates for three-, four-, and five-star licensed care for children ages three through five in tier three counties to the 75th percentile of 2015 market rates as of October 2018. The state also increased payment rates for three-, four-, and five-star licensed care for children birth through age five in tier one and tier two counties to the 100th percentile of 2015 market rates as of October 2018.

NORTH DAKOTA: The state increased payment rates from 75th percentile of 2017 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates as of September 2021.

OHIO: The state increased base payment rates from at least the 25th percentile of 2018 market rates to at least the 25th percentile of 2020 market rates as of July 2021.

OKLAHOMA: Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child and type of care. Also note that the state's market rate survey differentiates between quality levels and the 75th percentile of market rates is obtained for providers at each quality level; in Table 4d, the payment rate for the most common rate level is compared to the 75th percentile for that same quality level, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level is compared to the 75th percentile for that quality level. The state's quality rating and improvement system has four levels: one-star (which is the basic licensing level and the base payment rate level), one-star plus, two-star, and three-star. As of August 2018, the state increased payment rates for two- and three-star care for children birth through age three to the 65th percentile of 2017 market rates for Enhanced Areas and increased Enhanced Area payment rates for all other categories of care, except for one-star centers, by 7 percent. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that, as of April 2020, payment rates for one-star centers, which had last been increased in 2013, were increased to the 50th percentile of 2017 market rates; payment rates for one-star family child care homes were similarly increased to the 50th percentile of 2017 market rates; payment rates for care for children birth through age three in three-star centers and family child care homes care were increased to the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates; and all providers began receiving a rate add-on of $5 per day per child.

OREGON: The state increased payment rates for all types of care as of January 2022; prior to that, the state had last increased rates as of January 2019. Also note that Group Area A includes the Ashland, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Monmouth, and Portland areas.

PENNSYLVANIA: The state increased payment rates to at least the 40th percentile of market rates (for the region and category of care) as of March 2021. Prior to that, payment rates varied as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, county, unit of care (whether full- or part-time), and quality level of care.

RHODE ISLAND: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that from June 2020 through December 2021, the state temporarily paid licensed centers with a star level of less than five in the state's quality rating and improvement system at the rate previously paid to five-star centers; five-star centers at the 90th percentile of 2018 market rates; family child care for infants at the five-star/step four rate (the highest tiered rate for that category); and family child care for preschool- and school-age children at the step four rate (the highest tiered rate for that category). As of January 2022, the state increased rates for centers above the level they had been at prior to the temporary increase (but below the temporary rate levels); rates for licensed and license-exempt family child care returned to the levels they were at prior to the temporary increase. Prior to the temporary increases, payment rates had last been increased for centers in July 2018 and for licensed and license-exempt family child care in 2020.

SOUTH CAROLINA: The state's quality rating and improvement system, which is mandatory for all providers serving families receiving child care assistance, has five levels—C (which receives the base payment rate), B, B+, A, and A+. The state increased base payment rates and tiered rates as of October 2018 so that payment rates ranged from the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates for providers at Level C to the 90th percentile of 2017 market rates for providers at Level A+. The state increased base payment rates and tiered rates as of October 2021 so that payment rates ranged from the 75th percentile of 2020 market rates for providers at Level C to the 95th percentile of 2020 market rates for providers at Level A+.

SOUTH DAKOTA: The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased payment rates from the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2019 market rates as of July 2020.

TENNESSEE: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased rates for care for preschool-age children as of October 2020; payment rates for other age groups had last been increased as of July 2019. The state increased all payment rates by 10 percent as of October 2021. Also note that Top Tier Counties are those with the 20 highest average populations in 2018 and/or 20 highest per capita incomes in 2016-2018; these counties include: Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Cheatham, Davidson, Decatur, Fayette, Greene, Hamilton, Henry, Knox, Loudon, Madison, Maury, Montgomery, Putnam, Robertson, Rutherford, Sevier, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Washington, Williamson, and Wilson.

TEXAS: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that, as of October 2020, the state increased base rates from at least the 30th percentile of 2019 market rates to at least the 30th percentile of 2020 market rates, if not already at or above that level, and updated tiered rates—which had previously been set at a minimum of the 75th percent of market rates for providers with a four-star rating under the state's quality rating and improvement system, at least 90 percent of the four-star rate for three-star providers, and at least 90 percent of the three-star rate for two-star providers—for the 2020 market rate survey. As of October 2021, the state increased base rates to the 60th percentile of 2021 market rates for infants, 55th percentile for toddlers, and 50th percentile for preschool- and school-age children, and increased tiered rates for four-star providers to the 85th percentile for infants, 80th percentile for toddlers, and 75th percentile for preschool- and school-age children.

UTAH: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base payment rates for licensed family child care and center care from the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates for care for infants and toddlers and the 60th percentile of 2017 market rates for all other age groups to the 80th percentile of 2017 market rates for all age groups as of September 2020. The state increased base rates to the 80th percentile of 2021 market rates for care for infants and the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates for all other age groups as of October 2021. Also note that Table 4e reflects that, since October 2019, the state has had bonuses for higher-quality care; licensed centers rated as high quality under the state's quality rating and improvement system receive an additional payment of $175 per month per child (based on the average number of children receiving assistance per month during the previous 12 months) and licensed centers rated as high quality plus receive an additional payment of $200 per month per child. Although shown in Table 4e as incorporated into the monthly payment rate, these additional payments for higher-quality care (referred to as "enhanced subsidy grants") are paid separately.

VERMONT: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates and tiered rates for care for preschool- and school-age children as of October 2020. The state had increased base rates and tiered rates for care for infants and toddlers as of July 2018 and again as of January 2019, so that payment rates for providers at the four-star level of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) were set at the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates.

VIRGINIA: The payment rates in Table 4e reflect that, as of October 2020, the state implemented a pilot program that offers higher rates to providers at level four or five of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels).

WASHINGTON: The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased rates as of July 2020 so that rates for providers at level two of the state's quality rating and improvement system—which are 2 percent above base rates—were at least at the 65th percentile of 2018 market rates (if not already at or above that level). The state increased rates for providers at level two to the 85th percentile of 2018 market rates as of July 2021. Also note that providers must enroll in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels) within 30 days of receiving their first payment through the child care assistance program, and must achieve a quality rating of three or higher within 30 months of registering for the quality rating and improvement system to continue serving families receiving assistance.

WEST VIRGINIA: The state temporarily increased base and tiered payment rates as of March 2021; these rates are expected to remain in effect through December 2022. Also note that data on the state's policies as of 2001 are not available, so data on policies as of March 2000 are used instead for Table 4b.

WISCONSIN: The state's quality rating and improvement system has five levels; providers must be at least at the two-star level to serve families receiving child care assistance. Payment rates for two-star providers are set at 1 percent below the rate for three-star providers. The state increased payment rates for three-star providers from at least the 35th percentile to the 80th percentile of 2019 market rates as of January 2022.

WYOMING: The state temporarily increased payment rates from the 25th percentile to the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates as of October 2021.

TABLE 5

Eligibility for Child Care Assistance While a Parent Searches for a Job in 2020 and 2021

	LENGTH OF TIME PARENTS CAN CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE WHEN THEY LOSE A JOB WHILE RECEIVING ASSISTANCE		LENGTH OF TIME PARENTS CAN RECEIVE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE IF SEARCHING FOR A JOB WHEN THEY APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Alabama*	6 months	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Alaska*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Arizona*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Arkansas*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
California*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	12 months	12 months
Colorado*	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	Local decision
Connecticut*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Delaware*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
District of Columbia*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Florida*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Georgia*	13 weeks	13 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Hawaii*	30 days	30 days	30 days	30 days
Idaho*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Illinois*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Indiana*	26 weeks	16 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Iowa*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Kansas*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Kentucky*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Louisiana	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	90 days	Not eligible
Maine*	12 weeks	12 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Maryland*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Massachusetts*	26 weeks	12 weeks	26 weeks	12 weeks
Michigan*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Minnesota*	3 months	3 months	240 hours	240 hours
Mississippi*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Missouri*	90 days	90 days	60 days if job loss COVID-related	Not eligible
Montana*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Nebraska*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	3 months
Nevada*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
New Hampshire*	92 days	92 days	92 days	92 days
New Jersey*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
New Mexico*	3 months	3 months	3 months	Not eligible
New York*	Local decision	Local decision	Local decision	Local decision
North Carolina*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
North Dakota*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Ohio*	13 weeks	13 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Oklahoma*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	60 days	Not eligible
Oregon*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Pennsylvania*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Rhode Island*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
South Carolina*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
South Dakota*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Tennessee*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Texas*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Utah*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	150 hours	150 hours
Vermont*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Virginia*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Washington*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
West Virginia*	90 days	90 days	90 days	90 days
Wisconsin*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Wyoming*	3 months	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible

NOTES FOR TABLE 5: ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE WHILE PARENTS SEARCH FOR A JOB

The table reflects policies that apply to families not receiving TANF; policies may differ for families receiving TANF.

Data in the table for 2021 reflect policies as of February 2021, and data in the table for 2020 reflect policies as of February 2020. Certain changes in policies since February 2021 are noted below.

ALABAMA: As of June 2021, parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of their eligibility period.

ALASKA: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months (beginning the month after the non-temporary job loss was reported) even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 3-month period. Also note that parents cannot qualify for child care assistance if they are searching for a job when they submit their application for assistance, but they can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months if they experience a job loss after they submit the application, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria.

ARIZONA: 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 only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and participating in the Jobs Program.

ARKANSAS: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first; if the end of the eligibility period occurs before the end of the 90-day period for job search, the family's assistance could be extended once eligibility is reevaluated.

CALIFORNIA: Parents can initially qualify or recertify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 12 months, for no more than 5 days per week and less than 30 hours per week.

COLORADO: Counties must allow parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 weeks (and may allow a longer period of time) after each instance of the loss of a job or other activity. Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 weeks even if they reach the end of their eligibility period before the end of that 13-week period, but they must provide the required verification (as well as complete the remaining redetermination requirements) at the end of their eligibility period for assistance to continue. As of October 2020, counties are required to allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for a minimum of 13 weeks, and counties may allow more than 13 weeks to search for a job; any day in a week that a parent uses child care assistance while searching for a job is considered one week used towards the time limit. Prior to October 2020, a county did not have to allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if the county did not have adequate funding.

CONNECTICUT: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first, unless the parent reports losing their job due to COVID, in which case the parent can continue receiving assistance through the end of their eligibility period, under a policy that went into effect as of March 2020. A parent who is unemployed or furloughed at redetermination, and is otherwise eligible, can receive assistance to cover up to halftime care while searching for a job. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and participating in an approved Jobs First Employment Services activity.

DELAWARE: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 90-day period. Parents are authorized for assistance for the same number of hours of child care during their job search as they had while they were employed. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are participating in TANF or the SNAP Employment and Training program.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if it is a structured job search through an approved agency. Parents already receiving child care assistance can continue receiving assistance while searching for a job for 3 months after a temporary change in situation, and another 3 months after a non-temporary change in situation.

FLORIDA: 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 only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are applying for or receiving TANF.

GEORGIA: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 consecutive weeks or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first, except when the loss of employment is due to circumstances related to COVID, in which case the parent can continue receiving child care assistance through end of the family's eligibility period and into the next eligibility period, with the activity requirement waived, as long as all other eligibility requirements are met. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, or a natural disaster.

HAWAII: As of August 2021, the state increased the maximum amount of time parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job from 30 consecutive days (once in a 12-month period) to 3 months.

IDAHO: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.

ILLINOIS: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 90-month period. Parents could qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days under a temporary policy in effect from July 2021 through June 2022; under the state's standard policy, parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and searching for a job is approved as part of their TANF Responsibility and Service plan.

INDIANA: Parents receiving child care assistance are allowed a time-limited absence to care for a family member, to recover from illness, when not working between regular industry work seasons, for holidays or breaks in employment or education, due to a reduction in work or education hours, or due to any other cessation of work or an education program for a period not to exceed 26 weeks (up from 16 weeks in 2020), beginning one day after their loss of employment. Also note that as of July 2021, parents can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 53 weeks; previously, parents could only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they were receiving TANF and participating in the state's employment and training program, and had a referral from their caseworker.

IOWA: 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.

KANSAS: In 2020, parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever came first. In 2021, parents could only continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months, according to the state policy manual; however, under pandemic emergency provisions still in place as of February 2021, parents could continue receiving child care assistance, regardless of job status, until a review was completed at the end of the eligibility period unless the family requested closure or no longer met other eligibility criteria. Also note that parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF or SNAP benefits and searching for a job is part of their work program plan, or if they are receiving social service child care or participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program and it is part of their social service plan.

KENTUCKY: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 calendar months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.

MAINE: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 12 weeks even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 12-week period.

MARYLAND: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are applying for or receiving TANF and participating in an approved TANF activity. Also note that from March to September 2020, eligibility for child care assistance was automatically extended by 52 weeks for all families, regardless of job status.

MASSACHUSETTS: The state temporarily extended the amount of time parents could receive child care assistance while searching for a job in response to the pandemic; it has not yet been determined how long this temporary change will remain in place. Parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 12 weeks in 2020 and 26 weeks in 2021, and could do so multiple times during their eligibility period (as long as the job search periods were not consecutive). In 2021, parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 26 weeks or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever came first.

MICHIGAN: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF.

MINNESOTA: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 calendar months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Parents can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 240 hours per calendar year, for no more than 20 hours per week (unless the parent is receiving TANF, in which case the parent can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for the amount of time identified in the parent's employment plan).

MISSISSIPPI: 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 receiving child care assistance must notify the state agency within 10 days of the job loss. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF.

MISSOURI: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the last day of the month in which the 90th day allowed for job search falls. Parents can continue receiving child care assistance until the end of this time period even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of the time limit for job search. Parents can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 60 days if the job loss was due to COVID under a temporary policy that is in effect through September 2022.

MONTANA: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.

NEBRASKA: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 consecutive calendar months following each instance of the loss of employment, and the child care assistance can cover the same number of hours of child care as prior to their job loss. In February 2020, parents could qualify for child care assistance to cover up to 20 hours of care per week while searching for a job. As of September 2020, parents can no longer qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job unless they are participating in a workforce program such as SNAP Employment and Training or Unemployment Compensation.

NEVADA: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF, homeless, or participating in wrap-around services.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 92 days even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 92-day period (although they must complete the redetermination process at the end of the eligibility period). Parents must verify their job search with either receipt of unemployment compensation, a registration page from the New Hampshire Job Match System, or participation in the New Hampshire Employment Program.

NEW JERSEY: Prior to April 2021, parent could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 calendar months, and could request an additional 3 calendar months (for a total of 6 months); parents could continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of this time period even if they reached the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of the time limit for job search. As of April 2021, parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of their 12-month eligibility period.

NEW MEXICO: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance following a temporary change of activity, including the cessation of work or attendance at a training or education program, for up to 90 days. Parents can also continue receiving assistance when they experience a non-temporary change of activity, including the loss of employment, during a 3-month grace period. A parent can continue receiving child care assistance for 90 days following a job loss plus an additional 3 months to look for work during the grace period, for a total of 6 months.

NEW YORK: As of December 2021, parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months. Under the policy previously in effect, local social services districts had to allow parents receiving TANF to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 2 consecutive weeks, or up to 4 weeks if necessary for the family to maintain their child care arrangements. The previous policy permitted, but did not require, local districts to allow other parents to continue receiving child care assistance during a break in their activities; local districts could also choose to allow parents to qualify or continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 6 months if the district had funds available. Child care assistance was only provided for the portion of the day a parent documented as directly related to seeking employment, and local districts could impose additional limitations on child care assistance for parents to search for a job.

NORTH CAROLINA: In February 2021, parents could continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for more than 90 days if they could not find a job due to the pandemic. As of June 2021, parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of their 12-month eligibility period.

NORTH DAKOTA: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 consecutive months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Prior to March 2021, parents could only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they were receiving or transitioning from TANF or experiencing homelessness. As of March 2021, the state made a temporary policy change allowing parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months; this policy change is tentatively scheduled to remain in effect until March 2023.

OHIO: Prior to January 2021, counties had to allow parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 13 weeks. As of January 2021, counties had to allow parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for at least 13 weeks. As of September 2021, counties have to allow parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for at least 3 months but not more than 4 months. Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job up to the time limit or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness or if they are receiving TANF and have job search as an approved activity.

OKLAHOMA: In February 2020, parents could only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they were receiving TANF and job search was an approved activity. In February 2021, parents could qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 60 days, under a temporary policy change made in response to the pandemic. As of October 2021, the state increased the amount of time for which a parent could qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job to 3 months; this is still considered a temporary policy.

OREGON: 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.

PENNSYLVANIA: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are homeless; families experiencing homelessness can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 92 days. Parents already receiving child care assistance can be granted presumptive eligibility, for 92 days, at their redetermination if they are not working because they are on approved leave (disability, maternity, or a temporary break) and have a verified job to go back to within 92 days.

RHODE ISLAND: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of their eligibility period, unless the parent loses a job near the end of the eligibility period, in which case the family can continue receiving child care assistance for a 3-month period that would extend beyond the end of the eligibility period. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are entering an approved education or training program or receiving TANF.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness, dual language learners, or receiving assistance through TANF-related funding sources.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first.

TENNESSEE: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF or participating in the SNAP Employment and Training program. Also note that, as of March 2020, parents who do not meet the work hour requirement at recertification due to COVID can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for an additional 90 days.

TEXAS: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. As of July 2021, and effective through September 2022, parents can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months. Prior to this temporary change, parents could only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if their family was experiencing homelessness.

UTAH: Under the state's separate Kids-In-Care Program, parents can qualify or continue to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 150 hours in a 6-month period.

VERMONT: 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.

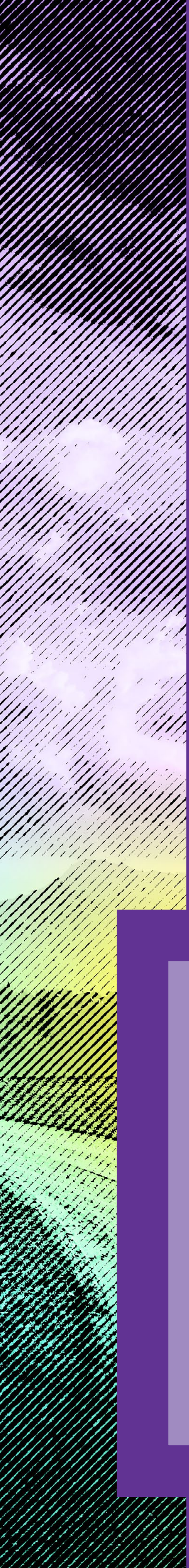
VIRGINIA: As of March 2021, under a temporary policy change, parents can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job. Prior to this temporary change, parents could only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they were participating in the TANF work program.

WASHINGTON: Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and job search is an approved activity or if they are experiencing homelessness.

WEST VIRGINIA: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days (for up to 9 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 90-day period. The parent must notify the state of the job loss within 5 days of the loss.

WISCONSIN: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are participating in TANF, Tribal TANF, or the FoodShare Employment and Training program.

WYOMING: Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months or until the end of their eligibility period, whichever comes first. As of March 2021, parents can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months.



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11 Dupont Circle, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
202.588.5180 | fax 202.588.5185
www.nwlc.org

facebook.com/nwlc @nwlc
@nationalwomenslawcenter