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**WARNING**

**SIGNS**

**STATE CHILD CARE**

**ASSISTANCE POLICIES 2025**

by KAREN SCHULMAN



MAY 2026



**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 over 50 years, the organization has been on the leading edge of every major legal and policy victory for women.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author thanks Amy Matsui for providing input on this report 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, Bainum Family Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Imaginable Futures, and Irving Harris Foundation.

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

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# INTRODUCTION

Child care is essential 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 offers children with a safe, nurturing environment to learn and develop skills they need to succeed in school and in life.<sup>1</sup> By bolstering the current and future workforce, it strengthens our nation's economy. Yet, persistent underfunding has left our child care system vulnerable and left children, families, and early educators without the support they need.

Many families, particularly low-income families,<sup>2</sup> struggle with the high price of child care. The average annual fee for full-time care ranges from approximately \$5,700 to \$26,300, depending on the age of the child, the type of care, and where the family lives.<sup>3</sup> 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 \$15.41 per hour,<sup>4</sup> and Black and Latina child care workers often are paid even less than their white peers.<sup>5</sup> To help families afford the reliable child care they want for their children, expand the supply of child care options that meet families' varied needs, and improve child care teachers' compensation, it is necessary to greatly expand public investment in child care.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the major federal child care assistance program, provides some help for families needing child care and for child care programs and early educators. 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 central to determining families’ ability to obtain child care assistance and the extent of help that assistance provides.

This analysis of child care assistance policies as of February 2025 offers warning signs—while a few states made notable strides forward on their policies, a number of states have taken steps backward, and many states have made little or no progress in addressing the gaps in their policies. Continuing and growing gaps in child care assistance policies stem in part from the expiration of

temporary CCDBG supplemental funding in September 2024. Child care assistance programs could be further jeopardized in coming years as states feel the full impact of federal funding cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) included in the 2025 budget reconciliation law, leaving states with fewer resources to devote to child care to supplement federal child care funding.

If there are cuts to federal and state funding for child care rather than the substantial increase that is needed, more low- and moderate-income families will be unable to qualify for child care assistance due to increasingly restrictive income limits, more eligible families will be denied help due to growing waiting lists for assistance, families will be burdened with rising copayments, and child care programs will find it even harder to adequately compensate their teachers or stay in business due to payment rates that fall ever further behind the cost of providing care.

**This analysis of child care assistance policies offers warning signs—while a few states made notable strides forward on their policies, a number of states have taken steps backward or made little or no progress.**



## FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE IN 2025, 2024, AND 2001

CCDBG funding—excluding supplemental funding measures approved in 2020 and 2021 in response to the pandemic and supplemental funding approved in 2024 as part of a disaster relief package—totaled \$12.296 billion in FY 2025,<sup>6</sup> the same nominal amount as in FY 2024<sup>7</sup> but a decrease from the FY 2024 inflation-adjusted level (\$12.681 billion in FY 2025 dollars).<sup>8</sup> Although funding did not keep pace with inflation in FY 2025, CCDBG had received a series of increases in discretionary funding in several previous years, including a \$2.37 billion increase in FY 2018,<sup>9</sup> and an increase of \$633 million in annual mandatory funding that was approved as part of the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021.<sup>10</sup> As a result, CCDBG funding in FY 2025 exceeded the funding level in FY 2010, when the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)<sup>11</sup> temporarily boosted funding; CCDBG funding in FY 2010 was \$6.044 billion before adjusting for inflation,<sup>12</sup> or \$9.241 billion in FY 2025 dollars.<sup>13</sup> CCDBG funding in FY 2025 was also above the FY 2002 funding level after adjusting for inflation—\$8.984 billion in FY 2025 dollars<sup>14</sup>—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 \$2.922 billion in FY 2024 (the most recent year for which data are available),<sup>15</sup> which was below the high of \$3.966 billion in FY 2000<sup>16</sup> even without adjusting for inflation. (In FY 2025 dollars, the amount of TANF funds used for child care was \$3.013 billion in FY 2024 compared to \$7.847 billion in FY 2000.<sup>17</sup>)

Total federal child care funding in FY 2025 from CCDBG and TANF funds (assuming the use of TANF in FY 2025 was the same as the FY 2024 inflation-adjusted amount) was \$15.309 billion (not including supplemental funding). This amount remained below total funding in FY 2001 after adjusting for inflation—\$15.499 billion in FY 2025 dollars.<sup>18</sup>

From FY 2020 through FY 2024, substantial supplementary federal funding for child care was provided in response to the COVID pandemic, but it was a temporary boost and the last of this funding (with the exception of the permanent increase in mandatory funding) expired in September 2024.

### **This temporary relief funding included:**

\$3.5 billion in supplemental child care discretionary funds included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020.<sup>19</sup>

\$10 billion in supplemental child care discretionary funds included in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, signed into law on December 27, 2020.<sup>20</sup>

\$14.99 billion in supplemental child care discretionary funds and \$23.975 billion for child care stabilization grants included in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed into law on March 11, 2021.<sup>21</sup>

The CARES child care funds, CRRSA child care funds, and ARPA child care stabilization grants had to be obligated (committed) by September 2022 and liquidated (expended) by September 2023, and the ARPA child care discretionary funds had to be obligated by September 2023 and liquidated by September 2024.

A much smaller amount of supplemental funding for child care was provided under the American Relief Act (ARA), which was signed into law on December 21, 2024.<sup>22</sup>

The legislation provided \$250 million in supplemental child care discretionary funds and \$250 million to cover child care expenses directly related to major disasters and emergencies that occurred in 2023 and 2024. The supplemental child care discretionary funding must be obligated by September 2027 and liquidated by September 2028; the disaster-related funding will be awarded by September 2026 and must be obligated by September 2029 and liquidated by September 2030.<sup>23</sup>




## SUMMARY OF KEY POLICIES AS OF FEBRUARY 2025 AND COMPARISON TO 2024 AND 2001

**Changes in states' policies between February 2024 and February 2025 and between 2001 and February 2025 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.<sup>24</sup> In 2025, a family with an income above 200 percent of poverty could not qualify for child care assistance in 20 states. Between 2024 and 2025,

seven states increased their income limits for child care assistance by a dollar amount that exceeded inflation; 37 states increased their income limits as a dollar amount to adjust for inflation, as measured against the change in the federal poverty level or state median income; three states kept their income limits the same as a dollar amount; and four states reduced their income limits as a dollar amount. Between 2001 and 2025, income limits declined as a percentage of the federal poverty level in nine states.



**Waiting lists** help reveal whether families who qualify for child care assistance actually receive it. Seventeen states had waiting lists or frozen intake for child care assistance in 2025, an increase from 13 states in 2024, but a decrease from 21 states in 2001. In 2025, there were 225,500 children on waiting lists, which was 106,700 more children than in 2024, and 22,600 more children 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 2025, copayments for families receiving child care assistance were above 7 percent of income for a family with income at 150 percent of poverty in five states, and for a family with income at 100 percent of poverty in four states. For a family with income at 150 percent of poverty, copayments as a percentage of income decreased in 14 states, increased in four states, and stayed the same in the remaining states between 2024 and 2025. For a family with income at 100 percent of poverty, copayments as a percentage of income decreased in 11 states, increased in five states, and stayed the same in the remaining states between 2024 and 2025. In 16 states, a family with income at 100 percent of poverty paid a higher percentage of its income in copayments in 2025 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. Over half of the states increased at least some of their payment rates for providers serving families receiving child care assistance between 2024 and 2025. Yet, only 12 states had all of their base payment rates at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates (the federally recommended level) in 2025, slightly higher than the eight states with payment rates at the recommended level in 2024, but lower than the 22 states with payment rates at the recommended level in 2001. Thirty-eight states had higher payment rates for higher-quality care (tiered rates) in 2025, a decrease from 40 states in 2024.<sup>25</sup> In over two-fifths of states with tiered rates, even the higher rates were below the federally recommended level in 2025.

**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-one states allowed families receiving child care assistance to continue receiving it while a parent searched for a job in 2025, the same number of states as in 2024. Twenty-two states allowed families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2025, an increase from 21 states in 2024.<sup>26</sup>

# METHODOLOGY

The National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) 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 2025 requesting data on policies as of February 2025 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 2025 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 the impact of the expiration of ARPA child care funding and the impact of federal legislative and administrative developments; 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 2024 data used in this report for comparison purposes through a similar process and analyzed these data in NWLC’s May 2025 report, *Decision Point: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2024*. 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 2024 and 2025, seven states increased their income eligibility limits as a dollar amount by enough to exceed inflation, as measured against the change in the federal poverty level or state median income, depending on which benchmark the state used.<sup>27</sup> In addition, nearly three-quarters of the states increased their income limits as a dollar amount by enough to keep pace with inflation. However, seven states either did not increase or reduced their income limits as a dollar amount.

Between 2001 and 2025, over three-quarters of the states increased their income eligibility limits as a dollar amount by enough to exceed inflation, as measured against the change in the federal poverty level.<sup>28</sup> However, nearly one-fifth of the states failed to increase their income limits sufficiently to keep pace with inflation.

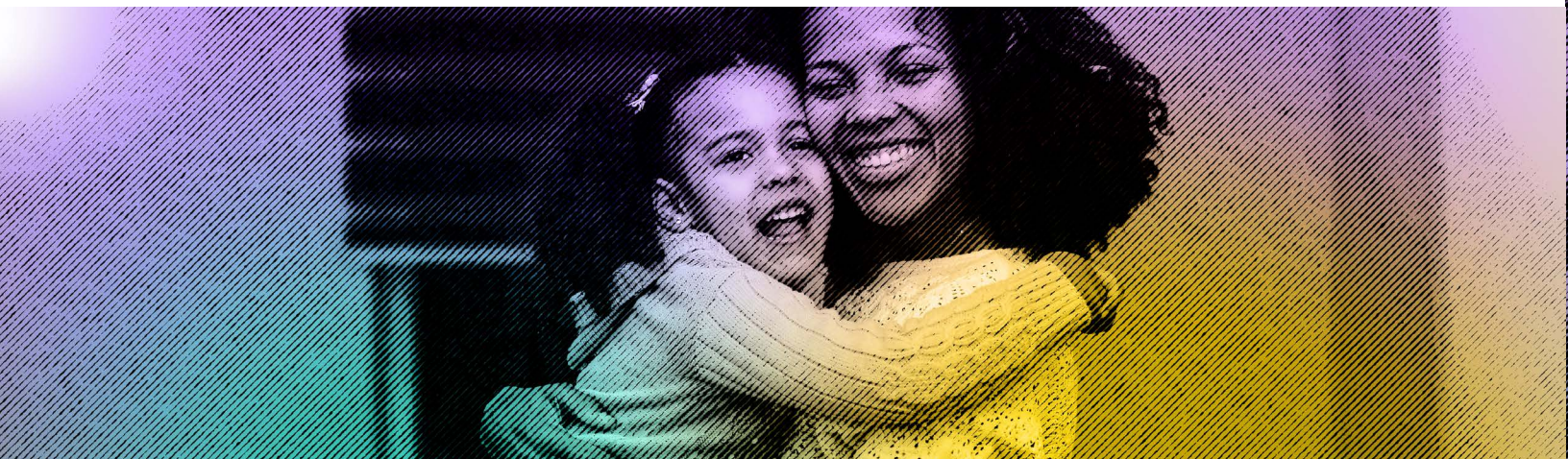
Although most states raised their income eligibility limits to keep pace with or exceed inflation between 2024 and 2025, nearly two-fifths of the states still had income limits at or below 200 percent of poverty in 2025.

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**Seven states increased their income eligibility limits** by a dollar amount that exceeded inflation between 2024 and 2025 (see *Table 1a*).<sup>29</sup>

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**Thirty-seven states increased their income eligibility limits** as a dollar amount to adjust for inflation between 2024 and 2025, including 31 states that adjusted for one year of inflation,<sup>30</sup> as well as four states that adjusted for two years of inflation,<sup>31</sup> one state that adjusted for three years of inflation,<sup>32</sup> and one state that adjusted for four years of inflation.<sup>33</sup>



**Three states kept their income eligibility limits** the same as a dollar amount between 2024 and 2025.<sup>34</sup>

**Four states lowered their income eligibility limits** as a dollar amount between 2024 and 2025.<sup>35</sup>

**Fifty states increased their income eligibility limits** as a dollar amount between 2001 and 2025 (see *Table 1b*). In 39 of these states, the increase was great enough that the income limit was higher as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 2025 than in 2001.<sup>36</sup> In another three states, the increase was great enough that the income limit stayed the same as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 2025 as in 2001. However, in eight 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 2025 than in 2001. In addition, one state reduced

its income limit as a dollar amount between 2001 and 2025, and therefore its income limit was also lower as a percentage of the federal poverty level in 2025 than in 2001.

**All states set their income eligibility limits** above 100 percent of the federal poverty level (\$26,650 a year for a family of three in 2025) in 2025. However, seven states<sup>37</sup> set their income limits at or below 150 percent of poverty (\$39,975 a year for a family of three in 2025). A total of 20 states set their income limits at or below 200 percent of poverty (\$53,300 a year for a family of three in 2025). Yet, in every county and city across the country, a family needs an income substantially 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.<sup>38</sup>

**Seven states set their income limits to qualify for assistance at or below 150 percent of poverty in 2025: Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Missouri, Nevada, and Ohio.**



# 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 assistance 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 are confronted with difficult choices. According to several studies,<sup>39</sup> these families often 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 care that is not their preferred option. Some families cannot afford child care at all, making it impossible for parents to work.

In 2025, two-thirds of states were able to serve eligible families who applied for child care assistance without placing any on waiting lists or freezing intake, but one-third of the states had waiting lists or frozen intake for at least some families applying for assistance. There were more states with waiting lists in 2025 than in 2024, but fewer states than in 2001. The total number of children on waiting lists in 2025 was also significantly higher than in 2024, and higher than in 2001.<sup>40</sup>

**Seventeen states had waiting lists or frozen intake in 2025**, an increase from 13 states in 2024,<sup>41</sup> but a decrease from 21 states in 2001 (see Table 2).

**Approximately 225,500 children were on waiting lists in 2025**, 106,700 more children than in 2024—a 90 percent increase. In addition, approximately 22,600 more children were on waiting lists in 2025 than in 2001—an 11 percent increase.<sup>42</sup>

**Of the 12 states that had waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2024 and 2025**, nine states had longer waiting lists in 2025 than in 2024, and one state had a shorter waiting list. In the remaining two states with waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2024 and 2025, 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 2025**, three states had longer waiting lists in 2025 than in 2001, and five states had shorter waiting lists. In the remaining four states with waiting lists or frozen intake in both 2001 and 2025, it was not possible to compare the length of waiting lists based on the available data.

**Seventeen states had waiting lists or frozen intake for all families but certain priority groups in 2025: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, 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. 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.<sup>43</sup> Many states reduced or waived copayments as part of their efforts to lessen burdens for families in response to the pandemic, with the help of federal child care relief funds. Yet, in many cases, these copayments were reduced or waived only temporarily and, in most states, they had reverted to previous levels by 2025. While over one-quarter of states reduced copayments as a percentage of income for families at 150 percent of poverty and/or families at 100 percent of poverty between 2024 and 2025, most states kept their copayments the same, and a few states increased their copayments.

Several states had high copayments in 2025. CCDBG regulations issued in 2016 recommended—but did not require—that copayments charged to families receiving child care assistance not exceed 7 percent of their income;<sup>44</sup> CCDBG regulations issued in March 2024 required states to set copayments at levels that did not exceed 7 percent of a family’s income.<sup>45</sup> This benchmark was 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.<sup>46</sup> But states could receive a waiver allowing them additional time to come into compliance with this requirement, and some states were not meeting the benchmark as of 2025.





**In 14 states, copayments for a family of three with income at 150 percent of poverty<sup>47</sup> decreased** as a percentage of income between 2024 and 2025 (see *Table 3a*). In 31 states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In four states, copayments increased as a percentage of income. In two states, a family with income at 150 percent of poverty was eligible for child care assistance in 2024 but not 2025.<sup>48</sup>

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**In 34 states, copayments for a family of three with income at 150 percent of poverty<sup>49</sup> decreased** as a percentage of income between 2001 and 2025. In six states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In seven states, copayments increased as a percentage of income. In two states, a family with income at 150 percent of poverty was eligible for child care assistance in 2025 but not 2001; in one state, a family with income at 150 percent of poverty was eligible for child care assistance in 2001 but not 2025; and in one state, a family with income at 150 percent of poverty was not eligible for child care assistance in either 2025 or 2001.

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**In 11 states, copayments for a family of three with income at 100 percent of poverty<sup>50</sup> decreased** as a

percentage of income between 2024 and 2025 (see *Table 3b*). In 35 states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In five states, copayments increased as a percentage of income.

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**In 27 states, copayments for a family of three with income at 100 percent of poverty<sup>51</sup> decreased** as a percentage of income between 2001 and 2025. In eight states, copayments remained the same as a percentage of income. In 16 states, copayments increased as a percentage of income.

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**In five states, the copayment for a family of three with income at 150 percent of poverty was above \$233 per month (7 percent of income) in 2025.** This includes two states where the copayment for a family at this income level was \$332 per month (10 percent of income) or higher.

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**In four states, the copayment for a family of three with income at 100 percent of poverty was above \$155 per month (7 percent of income) in 2025.** This includes one state where the copayment for a family at this income level was \$221 per month (10 percent of income).



# PROVIDER PAYMENT RATES

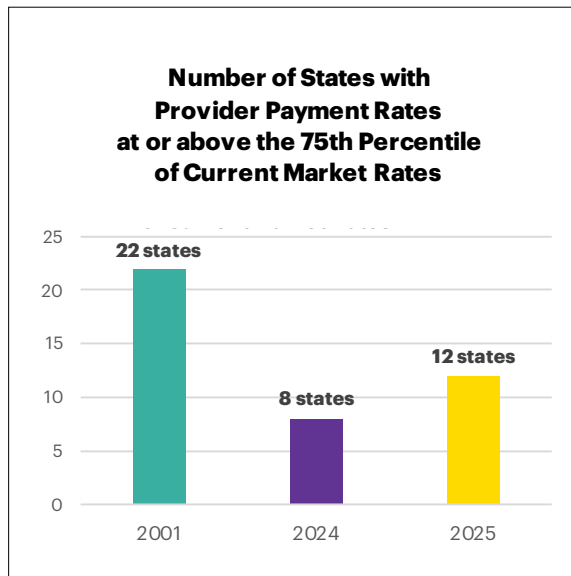
States set payment rates for child care providers who care for children receiving child care assistance. The payment rate is a ceiling on the amount the state will pay providers, and a provider will be paid at that rate if the fee the provider charges to parents who pay out of their own pocket (private-paying parents) is equal to or greater than the rate. If a provider charges private-paying parents a fee that is below the payment rate, states typically pay the provider an amount equal to the private-pay fee; regulations issued in 2024 encourage states to pay the full state rate, regardless of the fee the provider charges private-paying parents.<sup>52</sup> 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 teachers; low child-staff ratios that enable children to receive one-on-one attention; facilities that are safe and tailored to children's needs; and materials and supplies for activities that encourage children's learning and development. Inadequate and outdated 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 teachers—and these providers can sometimes find it impossible to even keep their doors open.

Over half of the states increased their payment rates between 2024 and 2025. Still, in 2025, less than one-quarter of the states set their payment rates at or above the federally recommended level—the 75th percentile of current market rates,<sup>53</sup> a rate that is designed to allow families access to 75 percent of

the providers in their communities. There were more states that set their payment rates at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates in 2025 than in 2024, but fewer than did so in 2001.<sup>54</sup>

The federal benchmark of the 75th percentile itself is insufficient, since it reflects a broken market in which the prices providers are able to charge do not cover the costs of offering high-quality care and fairly compensating teachers and staff. The federal regulations for CCDBG offer states the alternative of setting rates based on the estimated cost of providing child care, taking into account the expenses for adequate salaries for child care teachers, facilities, supplies and materials, and other costs. States that use this approach as the primary or sole means of setting their rates—as three states were doing as of 2025—should take care to design and implement their cost estimation methodology to ensure it results in a substantial boost in payment rates, incorporates the full set of costs of providing care, and reflects variations in costs by the age of the child, geographic location, and other factors.



**Twelve states set their payment rates at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates** (rates from 2023 or 2024) in 2025 (see *Table 4a*),<sup>55</sup> higher than the eight states that set their payment rates at this level in 2024, but lower than the 22 states that set their payment rates at this level in 2001 (see *Table 4b*).

**Three states set their payment rates** based on child care cost estimation models in 2025.<sup>56</sup>

**Over half of the states increased their payment rates between 2024 and 2025.**

**Thirty-seven states increased at least some of their payment rates between 2023 and 2025,**<sup>57</sup> including 27 states that increased their rates between 2024 and 2025.<sup>58</sup> One state reduced its payment rates between 2023 and 2025.<sup>59</sup> The remaining 13 states did not update their payment rates between 2023 and 2025. All states updated their payment rates between 2001 and 2025.

- Among states that increased their base payment rates for center care for a 4-year-old between 2024 and 2025, the average increase was \$141 per month per child (see *Table 4c*).
- Among states that increased their base payment rates for center care for a 1-year-old between 2024 and 2025, the average increase was \$177 per month per child.

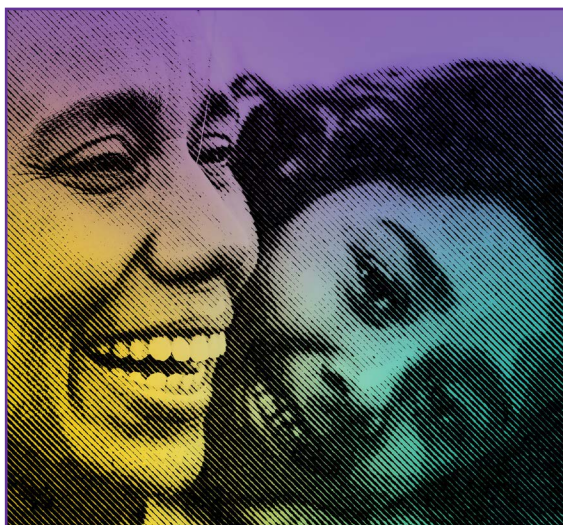
**In 13 states, payment rates for center care for a 4-year-old in 2025 were at least 20 percent below the 75th percentile of market rates** (based on the state's most recent market survey for which it reported data) for this type of care (see Table 4d).<sup>60</sup>

**In six states, payment rates for center care for a 1-year-old in 2025 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 15 states, payment rates for center care for a 4-year-old in 2025 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 4-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 12 states, payment rates for center care for a 1-year-old in 2025 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.

Twelve states set their payment rates at or above the 75th percentile of current market rates in 2025: Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia.



**Thirty-eight states had higher payment rates (tiered rates) for child care providers that met higher-quality standards in 2025,<sup>61</sup>** a decrease from 40 states in 2024.<sup>62</sup> 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 over two-fifths of the states with tiered rates, the highest rate fell below the 75th percentile of current market rates. And in over two-fifths

of the states with tiered rates, the highest payment rate was less than 20 percent above the base rate.

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**Thirty-eight states paid higher rates for higher-quality care in 2025,** a decrease from the 40 states that did so 2024 (see *Table 4e*).<sup>63</sup> 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 2 years of age to kindergarten entry.<sup>64</sup>

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**Four of the 38 states with tiered rates in 2025 had two rate levels** (including the base level),<sup>65</sup> 10 states had three levels, 14 states had four levels, eight states had five levels, one state had six levels, and one state had eight levels.<sup>66</sup>



**In over two-fifths of the 38 states with tiered rates for center care for a 4-year-old in 2025**, the payment rate for this type of care at the highest quality level was below the 75th percentile of market rates (which includes providers at all levels of quality) for this type of care.

- In 17 of the 38 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).<sup>67</sup> In 11 of these states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was at least 10 percent below the 75th percentile.
- In 21 of the 38 states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was above the 75th percentile of market rates. In 15 of these states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was at least 10 percent above the 75th percentile.

**Among the 38 states with tiered rates for center care for a 4-year-old, the difference between a state's lowest rate and highest rate for this type of care ranged from 6 percent to 176 percent in 2025.** 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 four of the 38 states, the highest rate was 6 percent to 9 percent greater than the lowest rate. In two of these four states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.

- In 12 of the 38 states, the highest rate was 10 percent to 19 percent greater than the lowest rate. In five of these 12 states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.
- In 14 of the 38 states, the highest rate was 20 percent to 29 percent greater than the lowest rate. In seven of these 14 states, the highest rate was below the 75th percentile of market rates.
- In eight of the 38 states, the highest rate was at least 30 percent greater than the lowest rate. In three of these eight 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 4-year-old was greater in 2025 than in 2024.**<sup>68</sup> In six states, the percentage differential between the lowest and highest rates was smaller in 2025 than in 2024.<sup>69</sup> In the remaining 29 states with tiered rates for center care for a 4-year-old in both years, the differential between the lowest and highest rates was the same in 2025 as in 2024.

# 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 arrange care for their children before they find a job rather than having to wait until after they find a job. In addition, children can have greater stability if they can remain in the same child care arrangement without disruption after a parent loses one job and while the parent searches 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.<sup>70</sup> States had until at least September 30, 2016, to implement this provision,<sup>71</sup> and some states received waivers allowing them additional time beyond that to implement the provision.<sup>72</sup> 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 2025, all 51 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 as in 2024. In addition, all states allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to at least three months or until the end of their eligibility period—policies that are consistent with the requirements of the CCDBG Act of 2014.

Twenty-two states allowed families to qualify for and begin receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2025, a slight increase from 21 states in 2024.<sup>73</sup>

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**All 51 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), for up to 16 weeks, for up to 26 weeks, or until the end of their eligibility period in 2025, the same number of states as in 2024 (see Table 5).

- One state allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job until the end of the family's 24-month eligibility period in 2025, the same as in 2024.
- One state allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 90 days after the end of the family's 12-month eligibility period in 2025, the same as in 2024.
- Thirteen 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 2025, the same as in 2024.

- One state allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 26 weeks in 2025, the same as in 2024.
- One state allowed families to continue receiving child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 16 weeks in 2025, the same as in 2024.
- 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 2025, the same as in 2024.<sup>74</sup>
- One state allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 26 weeks in 2025, the same as in 2024.
- Thirteen 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 2025, the same number of states as in 2024.<sup>75</sup>
- One state allowed families to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 30 days while their application was being processed in 2025, the same as in 2024.

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**Twenty-two states allowed families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2025**, compared to 21 states in 2024.

- One state allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 24 months in 2025, the same as in 2024.
- Three states allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 12 months or the equivalent (53 weeks) in 2025, an increase from two states that did so in 2024.
- One state required localities to allow families to qualify to receive child care assistance for up to 6 months while a parent searched for a job (if the locality had funds available) in 2025, the same as in 2024.
- One state allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 240 hours in 2025, the same as in 2024.
- One state allowed families to qualify to receive child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 150 hours in 2025, the same as in 2024.

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**Twenty-nine states did not allow families not receiving child care assistance to qualify for assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2025**, a decrease from 30 states in 2024.

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# LOOKING AHEAD: POLICY CHANGES SINCE FEBRUARY 2025

Although this report primarily focuses on changes between February 2024 and February 2025, states reported on some changes they made after February 2025.

According to preliminary information, over two-fifths of the states made progress on one or more of the policies covered in this report after February 2025.<sup>76</sup> Yet nearly two-fifths of the states took steps backward on one or more of these policies after February 2025. There was a particularly concerning increase in the number of states with waiting lists or frozen intake and in the total number of children on waiting lists for child care assistance. Sustained, substantial new investments will be needed to ensure all states make progress on their child care assistance policies rather than moving in a negative direction.

**At least 21 states made positive changes** to one or more of their key child care assistance policies after February 2025. For example:

- At least two states increased their income eligibility limits to qualify for child care assistance, beyond inflation,<sup>77</sup> and one state began allowing families to qualify for child care assistance regardless of income.<sup>78</sup>
- At least four states had a decrease in the number of children on their waiting lists for child care assistance.<sup>79</sup>
- At least three states reduced copayments for some or all families receiving child care assistance and/or began exempting more families receiving child care assistance from copayments.<sup>80</sup>
- At least 12 states increased base and/or tiered payment rates for some or all categories of child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance.<sup>81</sup>

**However, at least 19 states made negative changes** to one or more of their key child care assistance policies after February 2025.<sup>82</sup> For example:

- At least one state reduced its income eligibility limit to qualify for child care assistance as a dollar amount.<sup>83</sup>
- At least seven states began placing families who applied for child care assistance on waiting lists or began freezing intake,<sup>84</sup> and at least 10 other states had an increase in the number of children on their waiting lists for child care assistance.<sup>85</sup> As a result, there were more than 400,000 children on waiting lists for child care assistance by the summer/fall of 2025—over 175,000 more children than in February 2025, a 78 percent increase.<sup>86</sup>
- At least four states increased copayments for some or all families receiving child care assistance and/or started charging copayments to groups of families receiving child care assistance that had previously been exempted from copayments.<sup>87</sup>
- At least three states reduced base and/or tiered payment rates for some or all categories of child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance.<sup>88</sup>
- At least two states reduced the amount of time families can receive child care assistance while a parent searches for a job,<sup>89</sup> and at least one state stopped allowing families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searches for a job.<sup>90</sup>



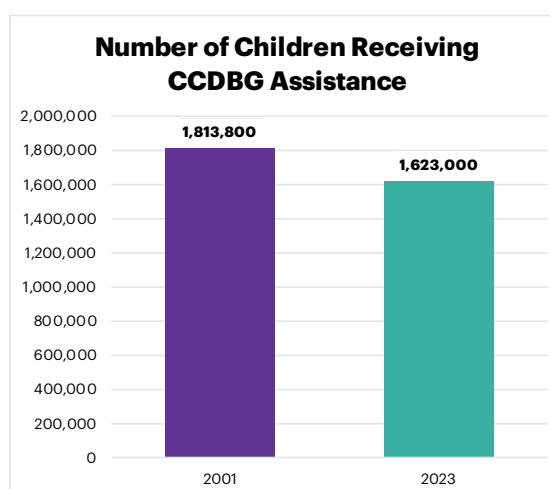
# CONCLUSION

Thirty-seven states made improvements in one or more key child care assistance policies covered in this report between February 2024 and February 2025. These states with policy improvements increased income limits beyond inflation adjustments, reduced or eliminated waiting lists, lowered copayments as a percentage of family income, increased provider payment rates, and/or began allowing families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job (see *box below*).

While some of these positive changes were significant, other changes were relatively minor. And fewer states made improvements between February 2024 and February 2025 than they made when pandemic relief funding first became available—48 states made improvements in one or more key child care assistance policies between February 2021 and February 2022,<sup>91</sup> and 40 states made improvements between February 2020 and February 2021.<sup>92</sup> In addition, with the expiration of pandemic relief funding, 27 states took steps backward on one or more of their key child care assistance policies between February 2024 and February 2025.<sup>93</sup>

As a result of insufficient progress at best and backsliding at worst in their child care assistance policies, too many states still have low income limits, lengthy waiting lists, burdensome copayments, and/or inadequate payment rates—and too many children and families are denied the child care assistance they need. Many families who are eligible for child care assistance under federal eligibility criteria do not receive assistance because state eligibility criteria that are more restrictive than federal criteria keep them from qualifying, waiting lists for assistance prevent them from receiving assistance for which they are eligible, or because insufficient outreach leaves them unaware that assistance is available. Only one in six children eligible for child care assistance under federal law received it in 2021 (the most recent year for which data are available).<sup>94</sup>

And 190,800 fewer children were receiving child care assistance through CCDBG in 2023 (the most recent year for which these data are available) than in 2001.<sup>95</sup>



Shortfalls in child care assistance programs may worsen as the massive cuts to Medicaid and SNAP included in the 2025 reconciliation law are implemented, straining state budgets and leaving states with less capacity to invest their own resources in child care.<sup>96</sup> A number of states have made their own investments in child care in recent years,<sup>97</sup> but it is uncertain whether states will be able to sustain these investments given the budget pressures. And state action is not a substitute for action at the federal level. A significant commitment of federal resources is essential to create a strong child care system that enables all children, families, and early educators throughout the country—and our nation’s economy—to thrive.

## Summary of Improvements in Key State Child Care Assistance Policies

February 2024 to February 2025

↑ **Thirteen states increased their income eligibility limits** to qualify for child care assistance by more than a one-year adjustment for inflation: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

↓ **But four states reduced their income eligibility limits** to qualify for child care assistance as a dollar amount: Georgia, Idaho, Nevada, and North Dakota.

↑ **Two states reduced the number of children and families on their waiting lists** for child care assistance or eliminated their waiting lists and began serving all eligible families who applied for child care assistance: Louisiana and New York.

↓ **But 14 states increased the number of children and families on their waiting lists** for child care assistance or began placing children and families on waiting lists for child care assistance: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia.

↑ **Fifteen states reduced copayments**, as a percentage of income, for child care assistance for families with incomes at 100 percent of poverty and/or families with incomes at 150 percent of poverty: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

↓ **But six states increased copayments**, as a percentage of income, for child care assistance for families with incomes at 100 percent of poverty and/or families with incomes at 150 percent of poverty: Hawaii, Kentucky, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, and Oklahoma.

↑ **Twenty-eight states increased** at least some of their base and/or tiered payment rates for child care providers: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia.

↓ **But five states reduced** at least some of their base and/or tiered payment rates for child care providers: Delaware, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

↑ **Two states began allowing** families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job: District of Columbia and Rhode Island.

↓ **But one state stopped** allowing families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job: Illinois.

# 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 2024 (the most recent year for which data are available), 4.914 million families with children under age 6 (32.9 percent) had incomes under 200 percent of poverty. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2025 Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Detailed Table POV06. Primary Families With Related Children by Age of Children, Number of Working Family Members and Family Structure: 2024, available at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-pov/pov-06.html>.

3 Child Care Aware of America, *Child Care in America: 2024 Affordability Analysis* (Arlington, VA: Child Care Aware of America, 2025), Appendix Tables I and II, available at [https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/Affordability\\_Analysis\\_Updated\\_2024.pdf](https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/Affordability_Analysis_Updated_2024.pdf).

4 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2024: Childcare Workers (2025), available at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>.

5 Yoonjeon Kim, Lea J.E. Austin, and Hopeton Hess, *The Multilayered Effects of Racism on Early Educators in California: An Examination of Disparities in Wages, Leadership Roles, and Education* (Berkeley, CA: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, 2024), available at <https://cscce.berkeley.edu/publications/report/effects-of-racism-on-california-early-educators/>; Brooke LePage, *The Child Care and Early Learning Workforce Is Underpaid and Women Are Paying the Price* (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2023), available at <https://nwlcl.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/child-care-workers-5.25.23v3.pdf>; Lea J.E. Austin, Bethany Edwards, Raúl Chávez, and Marcy Whitebook, *Racial Wage Gaps in Early Education Employment* (Berkeley, CA: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, 2019), available at <https://cscce.berkeley.edu/racial-wage-gaps-in-early-education-employment/>.

6 This amount includes \$8.746 billion in discretionary funding and \$3.550 billion in mandatory (entitlement) funding. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, GY2025 CCDF Funding Allocations (Based on Appropriations), available at <https://acf.gov/occ/data/gy-2025-ccdf-allocations-based-appropriations>. In addition to this federal funding, states are required to contribute a total of \$888 million in maintenance of effort funds and \$1.602 billion in matching funds to pull down their full federal mandatory funding allotment. States may also contribute their own state dollars above and beyond the required maintenance of effort and matching funds to support their child care assistance programs.

7 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, GY2024 CCDF Funding Allocations (Based on Appropriations), available at <https://acf.gov/occ/data/gy-2024-ccdf-allocations-based-appropriations>.

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

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

12 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>.

13 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.

14 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/budget/budget-in-brief/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.

15 This total includes \$1.387 billion transferred to CCDBG and \$1.535 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 2024 TANF Financial Data, Table A.1.: Federal TANF and State MOE Expenditures Summary by ACF-196R Spending Category, FY 2024, available at <https://acf.gov/ofa/data/tanf-financial-data-fy-2024>.

16 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/ofa/data/tanf\\_2000.html](http://archive.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data/tanf_2000.html).

17 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.

18 In FY 2001, CCDBG funding was \$4.567 billion (\$8.730 billion in FY 2025 dollars) and TANF funding used for child care was \$3.541 billion (\$6.769 billion in FY 2025 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/ofa/data/tanf\\_2001.html](http://archive.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/data/tanf_2001.html). CCDBG and TANF amounts in FY 2025 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.

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

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

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

22 American Relief Act, 2025, Pub. L. No. 118-158, 138 Stat. 1753-1754 (2024).

23 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, American Relief Act (ARA) CCDF Discretionary Supplemental Funds (ACF-OCC-CCDF-IM-25-03), January 14, 2025, available at <https://acf.gov/occ/policy-guidance/american-relief-act-cddf-discretionary-supplemental-funds-acf-occ-cddf-im-25-03>; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, Disaster Supplemental Funds for Child Care – 2023 and 2024 Major Disasters and Emergencies (ACF-OCC-CCDF-PI-2025-06), July 16, 2025, available at <https://acf.gov/occ/policy-guidance/disaster-funds-2023-2024-acf-occ-cddf-pi-2025-06>.


24 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.

25 Comparable data were not collected for 2001.

26 Comparable data were not collected for 2001.

27 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 allowed local workforce development boards to set their income limits within a state-specified range until October 2022, the maximum of that range is used for the analysis in this report for 2001. For Virginia, which had three different income limits for each of three different regions in 2001, the highest regional income limit in that year is used for the analysis in this report; for 2024 and 2025, when Virginia had four regional income limits that applied to families with children ages 5 and older and a higher statewide income limit that applied to families with children under age 5, the statewide income limit for families with young children is used for the analysis in this report. For North Carolina, which since 2014 has had a higher income limit for families with children through age 5 than for families with older children, the higher income limit is used for the analysis in this report for 2024 and 2025.

28 State median income is not used to measure inflation between 2001 and 2025 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.



29 These seven states include Colorado (where the maximum state-approved level at which a county set its income limit increased from 270 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level to 300 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level), Delaware (which increased its income limit from 185 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level to 200 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level), Kansas (which increased its income limit from 250 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level to 85 percent of the 2024 state median income), Maine (which increased its income limit from 85 percent of the 2024 state median income to 125 percent of the 2025 state median income), Rhode Island (which increased its income limit from 200 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level to 261 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level), Vermont (which increased its income limit from 350 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level to 575 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level), and Wisconsin (which increased its income limit from 185 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level to 200 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level).

30 These 31 states include 19 states (Alabama, Arizona, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wyoming) that set their income limits based on the federal poverty level and adjusted their income limits for the 2024 federal poverty level; 10 states (Connecticut, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah) that set their income limits based on state median income and adjusted their income limits for the 2025 state median income; and two states (California and New Hampshire) that set their income limits based on state median income and adjusted their income limits for the 2024 state median income between February 2024 and February 2025.

31 These four states (Arkansas, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia) set their income limits based on state median income and adjusted their income limits from the 2023 to 2025 state median income.

32 This state is Mississippi, which set its income limit based on state median income and adjusted its income limit from the 2022 to 2025 state median income.

33 This state is Maryland, which set its income limit based on state median income and adjusted its income limit from the 2021 to 2025 state median income.

34 These three states are Alaska, Hawai'i, and Tennessee.

35 These four states include Georgia (which reduced its income limit from 50 percent of the 2024 state median income to 30 percent of the 2025 state median income), Idaho (which reduced its income limit from 175 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level to 130 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level), Nevada (which reduced its income limit from 85 percent of the 2024 state median income to 41 percent of the 2025 state median income), and North Dakota (which reduced its income limit from 85 percent of the 2024 state median income to 75 percent of the 2025 state median income).

36 For the purposes of this analysis, state income limits in 2025 are calculated as a percentage of the 2024 federal poverty level, because most states that set their income limits based on the federal poverty level had not yet updated their income limits for the 2025 federal poverty level by February 2025. State income limits in 2001 are calculated as a percentage of the 2001 federal poverty level because most states that set their income limits based on the federal poverty level had updated their income limits for the 2001 federal poverty level by June 2001. The federal poverty level for a family of three was \$14,630 in 2001, \$25,820 in 2024, and \$26,650 in 2025. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Prior HHS Poverty Guidelines and Federal Register References, *available at* <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references>.

37 These seven states include Ohio, which set its income limit for its primary child care assistance program at 145 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level in 2025. However, the state allowed families with incomes between 145 percent and 200 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level to qualify for child care assistance through a separate program.

38 National Women's Law Center analysis of data from Zane Mokhiber, Elise Gould, and Katherine deCourcy, Family Budget Calculator (Washington, DC: Economic Policy Institute, 2026), *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* <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references>.

39 See, e.g., Carol Burnett, Matt Williams, and Sally Frederic, When Child Care Funding Falls Short: How CCPP Revenue Cuts Are Impacting Mississippi Providers and Families (Biloxi, MS: Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative (MLICC), 2026), *available at* <https://www.mschildcare.org/savechildcarems>; Daphna Bassok, Isabelle Fares, Molly Michie, Kate Miller-Bains, and Kennedy Weisner, What Happens When Families Cannot Access Child Care Subsidies? (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 2026), *available at* <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/what-happens-when-families-cannot-access-child-care-subsidies/>; 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).

40 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.

41 These states include Georgia, which is characterized in this report as having frozen intake in 2024 and 2025, even though the state no longer refers to its policy as frozen intake, because in February 2024 and February 2025 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, student parents, and families with very low incomes).

42 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 2025, 2024, 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 2025 or 2024, 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 and Oregon, which only reported the number of families—not children—on their waiting lists in 2025 and/or 2024, the National Women's Law Center estimated the number of children on each 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 in each state, calculated from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, FY 2023 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served, available at <https://acf.gov/occ/data/fy-2023-preliminary-data-table-1>.

43 If a state determines its copayments based on the cost of care, this report assumes that the family had a 4-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.

44 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>.

45 Improving Child Care Access, Affordability, and Stability in the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), 89 Fed. Reg. 15,414 (March 1, 2024), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/01/2024-04139/improving-child-care-access-affordability-and-stability-in-the-child-care-and-development-fund-ccdf>. Regulations issued in May 2026 reversed this requirement capping copayments at 7 percent of income. Restoring Flexibility in the Child Care and Development Fund, 91 Fed. Reg. 25,807 (May 12, 2026), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/12/2026-09382/restoring-flexibility-in-the-child-care-and-development-fund-ccdf>.

46 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>.

47 For a family of three, 150 percent of the federal poverty level was equal to an income of \$38,730 in 2024 and \$39,975 in 2025.

48 These two states are Idaho and Nevada. While families with incomes at 150 percent of poverty could not qualify for child care assistance in five other states (Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, and Ohio) in 2025, and four states (Florida, Indiana, Missouri, and Ohio) in 2024, 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 2024 and 2025.

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

50 For a family of three, 100 percent of the federal poverty level was equal to an income of \$25,820 in 2024 and \$26,650 in 2025.

51 For a family of three, 100 percent of the federal poverty level was equal to an income of \$14,630 in 2001.

52 Improving Child Care Access, Affordability, and Stability in the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) (Preamble to Final Rule), 89 Fed. Reg. 15,370-1 (March 1, 2024).

53 This recommendation to set payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates is in the preamble to both regulations issued in 1998, 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 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. No. 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. No. 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.

54 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.

55 Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia are not counted as setting their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates in 2025, 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. Indiana, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina are also not counted as setting their payment rates at the 75th percentile of current market rates; their base rates were set 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 2023, 2024, or 2025) because data from more recent market surveys were not available for these states.

56 These three states are the District of Columbia, New Mexico, and Virginia.

57 These 37 states are Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, 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. Illinois is included because it increased rates for home-based child care. Wyoming is included because it increased rates for certain type of care and certain age groups. 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 68 and 69 and accompanying text for discussion of changes in tiered rates. However, North Carolina, which increased rates only for providers with three stars or higher in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels), is included here because the state requires all providers serving families receiving child care assistance (except religious-sponsored providers and providers with a temporary license) to have a rating of three stars or higher. Also note that Tennessee reduced its rates between 2024 and 2025, but its rates in 2025 were still higher than in 2023. Differences between rates shown in Table 4d of this report and rates shown in Table 4d of the State Child Care Assistance Policies 2023 or 2024 reports for any states other than those identified in this and the following two endnotes are due to revisions or recalculations of the data or changes in the category for which data are reported rather than policy changes.

58 These 27 states are Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia. 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. Arkansas is included because it increased rates for care for infants and toddlers. Illinois is included because it increased rates for home-based child care. North Dakota and Texas are included because they increased rates to the 75th percentile of 2024 market rates if rates were not already at or above that level. Also note that Georgia is included because its established rates were increased between 2024 and 2025; however, in 2024, the state paid each provider an amount equal to the published fee that the provider charged to private-paying parents, even if above the state's established rate.

59 This state is Michigan. Michigan increased its rates between 2024 and 2025, but its rates were still lower in 2025 than in 2023.

60 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 most states reported data from 2023 or more recent surveys. However, nine states reported data from surveys conducted before 2023. In one of these states, payment rates were more than 20 percent below the 75th percentile of outdated market rates, and therefore it is included in the count of states with rates below the 75th percentile of current market rates. In the other eight states, payment rates were less than 20 percent below the 75th percentile of market rates—and, in some cases, above the 75th percentile—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.

61 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.

62 Delaware and Virginia stopped using tiered rates between 2024 and 2025. Also note that comparable data on tiered rates were not collected for 2001.

63 New York, which offers local districts the option of paying a rate that is 15 percent higher than the base rate for accredited care, is not included in these counts because the region for which the state reported data, New York City, did not offer this tiered rate in 2024 or 2025.

64 This state is Hawai'i.

65 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).

66 Between 2024 and 2025, Georgia reduced the number of its rate levels from five to three, Ohio reduced the number of its rate levels from seven to four, and Tennessee reduced the number of its rate levels from four to three.

67 These 17 states include Florida, Hawai'i, North Carolina, and Oklahoma, each of which determined a separate 75th percentile of market rates for child care providers at separate quality levels. In these states, the payment rate at the highest quality level was below the 75th percentile for each of the quality levels for which each state collected data.

68 These three states are Arkansas, Iowa, and Michigan. In Arkansas, the state's lowest rate remained the same, while the highest rate increased; in Iowa and Michigan, both the lowest and highest rates increased between 2024 and 2025.

69 These six states are Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. In Georgia, Pennsylvania, Utah, and West Virginia, both the lowest and highest rates increased; in Ohio, the lowest rate increased while the highest rate decreased; and in Wisconsin, the lowest rate remained the same while the highest rate decreased.

70 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, Pub. L. No. 113-186, 128 Stat. 1971, 1979 (2014).

71 The federal Office of Child Care allowed states until September 30, 2016, to implement provisions in the law for which an effective date was 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](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/fy2016_2018_ccdf_plan_preprin_draft_for_public_comment_91415.pdf).

72 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>.

73 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. See Table 5 notes for information about states that allowed families receiving or transitioning from TANF, and/or other specific categories of families, to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job.

74 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.

75 Illinois, which had allowed families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to 90 days in 2024, no longer allowed families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2025. Rhode Island, which had not allowed families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job in 2024, allowed families to qualify for child care assistance while a parent searched for a job for up to three months in 2025.

76 See notes after the tables for more details about state policy changes since February 2025.

77 These two states are Florida and Georgia. In addition, Delaware increased its exit eligibility limit.

78 This state is New Mexico.

79 These four states are Arizona, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Virginia.

80 These three states are Maine, Montana, and Pennsylvania.

81 These 12 states are Connecticut, Illinois, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, and Washington.

82 Of these 19 states with negative changes to one or more key child care assistance policies, eight states had positive changes to one or more other key child care assistance policies and are counted among the 21 states with positive changes.

83 This state is Indiana.

84 These seven states are Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

85 These 10 states are Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, North Carolina, Oregon, and Texas.

86 For Minnesota, Mississippi, and New York, which only reported the number of families—not children—on their waiting lists after February 2025, the National Women's Law Center estimated the number of children on each 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 in each state, calculated from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, FY 2023 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served.

87 These four states are Arkansas, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Virginia. (While Virginia's new copayment schedule increased copayments for most families, the state capped copayments at 5 percent of income.)

88 These three states are Arkansas, Indiana, and North Dakota.



89 These two states are Massachusetts and Virginia.

90 This state is Indiana.

91 Karen Schulman, *Precarious Progress: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2022* (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2023), *available at* <https://nwlc.org/resource/precarius-progress-state-child-care-assistance-policies-2022/>.

92 Karen Schulman, *At the Crossroads: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2021* (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2022), *available at* <https://nwlc.org/resource/at-the-crossroads-state-child-care-assistance-policies-2021/>.

93 Of these 27 states that took steps backward on one or more key child care assistance policies, 19 states had improvements in one or more other key child care assistance policies and are counted among the 37 states with improvements.

94 Nina Chien, *Factsheet: Estimates of Child Care Eligibility and Receipt for Fiscal Year 2021* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Services Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2024), *available at* <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/child-care-eligibility-fy2021>.

95 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 2023 Preliminary Data Table 1 - Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served; 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>.

96 Wesley Tharpe, *States Must Prioritize Revenue to Support People and Communities in Wake of Harmful Republican Megabill*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, November 17, 2025, *available at* <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/states-must-prioritize-revenue-to-support-people-and-communities-in-wake-of-harmful-republican>.

97 Kyra Weber, Hannah Gabelnick, and Karen Schulman, *Progress and Setbacks: State Child Care and Early Education Updates 2025* (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2026), *available at* <https://nwlc.org/resource/progress-and-setbacks-state-child-care-and-early-education-updates-2025/>; Kyra Weber, Lucinda Leffler, and Karen Schulman, *Work in Progress: State Child Care and Early Education Updates 2024* (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2025), *available at* <https://nwlc.org/resource/work-in-progress-state-child-care-and-early-education-updates-2024/>; Kyra Weber, Shelby Brunson, and Karen Schulman, *State Child Care and Early Education Updates 2023: Continuing Progress* (Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center, 2024), *available at* <https://nwlc.org/resource/state-child-care-and-early-education-updates-2023-continuing-progress/>.

# TABLE 1A

## Income Eligibility Limits for a Family of Three in 2024 and 2025

	INCOME LIMIT IN 2025			INCOME LIMIT IN 2024			CHANGE IN INCOME LIMIT 2024 TO 2025		
	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2024 federal poverty level (\$25,820 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year)	As percent of state median income	As annual dollar amount	As percent of poverty	As percent of state median income
Alabama*	\$46,476	180%	58%	\$44,748	180%	60%	\$1,728	0%	-2%
Alaska*	\$74,304	288%	73%	\$74,304	299%	79%	\$0	-11%	-6%
Arizona*	\$42,612	165%	50%	\$41,028	165%	53%	\$1,584	0%	-3%
Arkansas*	\$61,816	239%	85%	\$53,161	214%	80%	\$8,655	26%	5%
California*	\$89,664	347%	88%	\$83,172	335%	89%	\$6,492	13%	-2%
Colorado*	\$47,767-\$77,460	185%-300%	44%-71%	\$49,720-\$67,122	200%-270%	50%-67%	-\$1,953-\$10,338	-15%-30%	-6%-3%
Connecticut*	\$73,509	285%	60%	\$67,124	270%	60%	\$6,385	15%	0%
Delaware*	\$51,648	200%	51%	\$45,996	185%	49%	\$5,652	15%	2%
District of Columbia*	\$77,460	300%	50%	\$74,580	300%	56%	\$2,880	0%	-6%
Florida*	\$38,730	150%	47%	\$37,290	150%	50%	\$1,440	0%	-3%
Georgia*	\$26,686	103%	30%	\$40,000	161%	50%	-\$13,314	-58%	-20%
Hawai'i	\$70,404	273%	65%	\$70,404	283%	70%	\$0	-11%	-5%
Idaho*	\$33,576	130%	41%	\$43,512	175%	60%	-\$9,936	-45%	-19%
Illinois*	\$58,092	225%	57%	\$55,932	225%	59%	\$2,160	0%	-2%
Indiana*	\$38,736	150%	45%	\$37,296	150%	47%	\$1,440	0%	-2%
Iowa*	\$41,316	160%	43%	\$39,780	160%	45%	\$1,536	0%	-2%
Kansas*	\$70,212	272%	78%	\$62,160	250%	75%	\$8,052	22%	3%
Kentucky*	\$68,772	266%	85%	\$62,520	251%	85%	\$6,252	15%	0%
Louisiana	\$68,400	265%	85%	\$62,076	250%	85%	\$6,324	15%	0%
Maine	\$118,922	461%	125%	\$74,796	301%	85%	\$44,126	160%	40%
Maryland*	\$94,026	364%	75%	\$75,627	304%	66%	\$18,399	60%	9%
Massachusetts*	\$66,226	256%	50%	\$61,106	246%	50%	\$5,120	11%	0%
Michigan*	\$51,648	200%	55%	\$49,728	200%	57%	\$1,920	0%	-2%
Minnesota*	\$54,360	211%	47%	\$49,605	200%	47%	\$4,755	11%	0%
Mississippi	\$58,784	228%	85%	\$48,999	197%	77%	\$9,785	31%	8%
Missouri*	\$38,736	150%	44%	\$37,296	150%	46%	\$1,440	0%	-2%
Montana*	\$47,772	185%	55%	\$45,996	185%	57%	\$1,776	0%	-2%
Nebraska*	\$47,772	185%	50%	\$45,996	185%	54%	\$1,776	0%	-3%
Nevada*	\$33,072	128%	41%	\$63,778	257%	85%	-\$30,706	-128%	-44%
New Hampshire*	\$95,283	369%	77%	\$89,180	359%	80%	\$6,103	10%	-2%
New Jersey*	\$51,640	200%	40%	\$49,720	200%	42%	\$1,920	0%	-2%
New Mexico*	\$103,280	400%	150%	\$99,440	400%	156%	\$3,840	0%	-5%
New York*	\$91,251	353%	85%	\$83,370	335%	85%	\$7,880	18%	0%
North Carolina*	\$51,636	200%	59%	\$49,716	200%	62%	\$1,920	0%	-3%
North Dakota*	\$77,544	300%	75%	\$81,756	329%	85%	-\$4,212	-29%	-10%
Ohio*	\$37,439	145%	41%	\$36,047	145%	43%	\$1,392	0%	-2%
Oklahoma*	\$64,284	249%	85%	\$59,336	239%	85%	\$4,948	10%	0%
Oregon*	\$51,648	200%	52%	\$49,728	200%	55%	\$1,920	0%	-3%
Pennsylvania*	\$51,640	200%	51%	\$49,720	200%	53%	\$1,920	0%	-2%
Rhode Island*	\$69,557	269%	66%	\$51,640	208%	54%	\$17,917	62%	12%
South Carolina*	\$70,095	271%	85%	\$64,068	258%	85%	\$6,027	14%	0%
South Dakota*	\$56,225	218%	63%	\$54,125	218%	67%	\$2,100	0%	-4%
Tennessee*	\$64,392	249%	78%	\$64,392	259%	85%	\$0	-10%	-7%
Texas*	\$73,694	285%	85%	\$67,449	271%	85%	\$6,245	14%	0%
Utah*	\$82,044	318%	88%	\$74,340	299%	88%	\$7,704	19%	0%
Vermont*	\$148,464	575%	141%	\$87,012	350%	94%	\$61,452	225%	47%
Virginia*	\$95,680	371%	85%	\$81,454	328%	80%	\$14,226	43%	5%
Washington*	\$66,048	256%	60%	\$56,592	228%	56%	\$9,456	28%	4%
West Virginia	\$64,732	251%	85%	\$56,271	226%	80%	\$8,461	24%	5%
Wisconsin*	\$53,304	206%	54%	\$47,772	192%	52%	\$5,532	14%	1%
Wyoming*	\$47,580	184%	51%	\$45,900	185%	52%	\$1,680	0%	-2%

# TABLE 1B

## Income Eligibility Limits for a Family of Three in 2001 and 2025

	INCOME LIMIT IN 2025			INCOME LIMIT IN 2001			CHANGE IN INCOME LIMIT 2001 TO 2025		
	As annual dollar amount	As percent of 2024 federal poverty level (\$25,820 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*	\$46,476	180%	58%	\$18,048	123%	41%	\$28,428	57%	17%
Alaska*	\$74,304	288%	73%	\$44,328	303%	75%	\$29,976	-15%	-2%
Arizona*	\$42,612	165%	50%	\$23,364	160%	52%	\$19,248	5%	-3%
Arkansas*	\$61,816	239%	85%	\$23,523	161%	60%	\$38,293	79%	25%
California*	\$89,664	347%	88%	\$35,100	240%	66%	\$54,564	107%	21%
Colorado*	\$47,767-\$77,460	185%-300%	44%-71%	\$19,020-\$32,000	130%-219%	36%-61%	\$28,747-\$45,460	55%-81%	8%-10%
Connecticut*	\$73,509	285%	60%	\$47,586	325%	75%	\$25,923	-41%	-15%
Delaware*	\$51,648	200%	51%	\$29,260	200%	53%	\$22,388	0%	-2%
District of Columbia*	\$77,460	300%	50%	\$34,700	237%	66%	\$42,760	63%	-16%
Florida*	\$38,730	150%	47%	\$20,820	142%	45%	\$17,910	8%	2%
Georgia*	\$26,686	103%	30%	\$24,278	166%	50%	\$2,408	-63%	-20%
Hawaii*	\$70,404	273%	65%	\$46,035	315%	83%	\$24,369	-42%	-18%
Idaho*	\$33,576	130%	41%	\$20,472	140%	51%	\$13,104	-10%	-10%
Illinois*	\$58,092	225%	57%	\$24,243	166%	43%	\$33,849	59%	13%
Indiana*	\$38,736	150%	45%	\$20,232	138%	41%	\$18,504	12%	3%
Iowa*	\$41,316	160%	43%	\$19,812	135%	41%	\$21,504	25%	3%
Kansas*	\$70,212	272%	78%	\$27,060	185%	56%	\$43,152	87%	22%
Kentucky*	\$68,772	266%	85%	\$24,140	165%	55%	\$44,632	101%	30%
Louisiana*	\$68,400	265%	85%	\$29,040	205%	75%	\$39,360	60%	10%
Maine*	\$118,922	461%	125%	\$36,452	249%	75%	\$82,470	211%	50%
Maryland*	\$94,026	364%	75%	\$25,140	172%	40%	\$68,886	192%	35%
Massachusetts*	\$66,226	256%	50%	\$28,968	198%	48%	\$37,258	58%	2%
Michigan*	\$51,648	200%	55%	\$26,064	178%	47%	\$25,584	22%	8%
Minnesota*	\$54,360	211%	47%	\$42,304	289%	76%	\$12,056	-79%	-29%
Mississippi	\$58,784	228%	85%	\$30,999	212%	77%	\$27,785	16%	8%
Missouri*	\$38,736	150%	44%	\$17,784	122%	37%	\$20,952	28%	6%
Montana*	\$47,772	185%	55%	\$21,948	150%	51%	\$25,824	35%	4%
Nebraska*	\$47,772	185%	50%	\$25,260	173%	54%	\$22,512	12%	-4%
Nevada*	\$33,072	128%	41%	\$33,420	228%	67%	-\$348	-100%	-26%
New Hampshire*	\$95,283	369%	77%	\$27,797	190%	50%	\$67,486	179%	27%
New Jersey*	\$51,640	200%	40%	\$29,260	200%	46%	\$22,380	0%	-6%
New Mexico*	\$103,280	400%	150%	\$28,300	193%	75%	\$74,980	207%	75%
New York*	\$91,251	353%	85%	\$28,644	202%	61%	\$62,607	151%	24%
North Carolina*	\$51,636	200%	59%	\$32,628	223%	69%	\$19,008	-23%	-11%
North Dakota*	\$77,544	300%	75%	\$29,556	202%	69%	\$47,988	98%	6%
Ohio*	\$37,439	145%	41%	\$27,066	185%	57%	\$10,373	-40%	-17%
Oklahoma*	\$64,284	249%	85%	\$29,040	198%	66%	\$35,244	50%	19%
Oregon*	\$51,648	200%	52%	\$27,060	185%	60%	\$24,588	15%	-8%
Pennsylvania*	\$51,640	200%	51%	\$29,260	200%	58%	\$22,380	0%	-8%
Rhode Island*	\$69,557	269%	66%	\$32,918	225%	61%	\$36,639	44%	5%
South Carolina*	\$70,095	271%	85%	\$21,225	145%	45%	\$48,870	126%	40%
South Dakota*	\$56,225	218%	63%	\$22,826	156%	52%	\$33,399	62%	11%
Tennessee*	\$64,392	249%	78%	\$24,324	166%	56%	\$40,068	83%	22%
Texas*	\$73,694	285%	85%	\$21,228-\$36,516	145%-250%	47%-82%	\$37,178	36%	3%
Utah*	\$82,044	318%	88%	\$28,248	193%	59%	\$53,796	125%	29%
Vermont*	\$148,464	575%	141%	\$31,032	212%	64%	\$117,432	363%	77%
Virginia*	\$95,680	371%	85%	\$21,948-\$27,060	150%-185%	41%-50%	\$68,620	186%	35%
Washington*	\$66,048	256%	60%	\$32,916	225%	63%	\$33,132	31%	-3%
West Virginia	\$64,732	251%	85%	\$28,296	193%	75%	\$36,436	57%	10%
Wisconsin*	\$53,304	206%	54%	\$27,060	185%	51%	\$26,244	21%	3%
Wyoming*	\$47,580	184%	51%	\$21,948	150%	47%	\$25,632	34%	4%

## 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 in February 2025 are calculated in the table as a percentage of the 2024 federal poverty level, and state income limits in February 2024 are calculated as a percentage of the 2023 federal poverty level because most states adjust their income limits for the updated federal poverty level after February each year. In the notes below, income limits (when reported as a percentage of poverty) are calculated as a percentage of the 2025 federal poverty level, unless otherwise indicated.

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 2025 reflect policies as of February 2025, data in the tables for 2024 reflect policies as of February 2024, and data in the tables for 2001 reflect policies as of June 2001, unless otherwise indicated. Certain changes in policies since February 2025 are noted below.

**ALABAMA:** In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$27,756. In 2024, the exit eligibility limit was \$49,716, and in 2025, it was \$51,636 (200 percent of the 2024 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 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$66,024. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$72,684. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$43,980 (165 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$77,112 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**ARKANSAS:** As of October 2025, the income limit was increased to \$64,460 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate. Also note that 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 2024 or 2025.

**CALIFORNIA:** As of July 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$93,420 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate. (The state calculates its income limits based on American Community Survey one-year estimates of state median income rather than the state median income estimates used for LIHEAP and for the calculations in the tables.) Also note that under policies in effect in 2001, families that had been receiving assistance as of January 1998 could continue doing so until their income reached \$46,800 since they were subject to higher income limits previously in effect.

**COLORADO:** The state establishes a minimum level at which counties must set their income limits to qualify for assistance and allows counties to set their income limits at higher levels with state approval; the ranges shown in the tables indicate the lowest limit allowed by the state and the highest limit approved by the state and used by counties. 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 2024, all counties were required to set their exit eligibility limit at \$84,636, and in 2025, all counties were required to set their exit eligibility limit at \$92,894. As of October 2025, the minimum level at which counties had to set their income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$49,303 (185 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit for all counties was increased to \$99,075 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**CONNECTICUT:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$72,717 (65 percent of the 2024 state median income). In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$104,139 (85 percent of the 2025 state median income). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$77,157 (60 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$109,306 (85 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**DELAWARE:** In 2024, 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 \$49,728 (200 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level). In 2025, the exit eligibility limit for this graduated phase-out period was \$55,524 (215 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$53,304 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level; the exit eligibility limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to \$79,956 (300 percent of poverty).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$41,640. In 2024, the exit eligibility limit was \$106,898, and in 2025, it was \$113,608 (85 percent of state median income).

**FLORIDA:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$59,584. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$69,999. As of July 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$39,975 (150 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$47,615 (55 percent of state median income); the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$73,587 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**GEORGIA:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$68,000. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$75,608. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$37,208 (40 percent of state median income); the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$79,066 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**HAWAII:** 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 2024 or 2025.

**IDAHO:** In 2024, 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 \$49,720 (200 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level). In 2025, the exit eligibility limit for this graduated phase-out period was \$36,156 (140 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$34,644 (130 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to \$37,308 (140 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level.

**ILLINOIS:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$68,364. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$71,004. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of July 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$59,964 (225 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$73,284 (275 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level. 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 2024 or 2025.

**INDIANA:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$63,684. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$68,100. As of May 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was reduced to \$37,308 (140 percent of poverty); the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$73,776 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**IOWA:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$62,160. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$64,560. 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 \$49,720 in 2024 and \$51,640 in 2025. As of July 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance for standard care was increased to \$42,648 (160 percent of poverty), the income limit to qualify for assistance for special needs care was increased to \$53,300 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$66,636 (250 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level.

**KANSAS:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$65,796. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001 or 2025. As of April 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$76,656 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**KENTUCKY:** As of October 2025, the income limit was increased to \$72,060 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate. Also note that families can continue receiving assistance for up to six months after their income exceeds 85 percent of state median income, during which time the state will pay the family's child care provider up to 50 percent of the state payment rate.

**LOUISIANA:** 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 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$91,287. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$106,563 (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 2024, the exit eligibility limit was \$103,880, and in 2025, it was \$112,583. Also note that, for special needs care, the income limit to qualify for assistance was \$103,880 in 2024 and \$112,583 in 2025; there was no separate exit eligibility limit for special needs care. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$69,701 (50 percent of state median income) for standard care and \$118,492 (85 percent of state median income) for special needs care, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$118,492 for all families, to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**MICHIGAN:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$73,620. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$79,752. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$53,304 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$83,568 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**MINNESOTA:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$70,713. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$77,492. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$56,850 (47 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$81,042 (67 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**MISSOURI:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$60,168. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$62,484. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of November 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$39,972 (150 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$64,488 (242 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level.

**MONTANA:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$49,716. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$51,636. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of July 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$49,308 (185 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$53,304 (200 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level.

**NEBRASKA:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$49,728. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$51,648. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$49,308 (185 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$53,304 (200 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level. 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 2025, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$39,528. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001 or 2024. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$34,680 (41 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$41,436 (49 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** As of July 2025, the income limit was increased to \$104,660 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**NEW JERSEY:** In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$36,575. In 2024, the exit eligibility limit was \$62,150, and in 2025, it was \$64,550. In 2024, 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 \$62,150 and \$100,042; in 2025, this graduated phase-out period applied to families with incomes between \$64,550 and \$104,159. As of March 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$53,300 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$66,625 (250 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level, and the income limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to \$108,303 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**NEW MEXICO:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$105,655. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$109,735. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of April 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$106,600 (400 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$113,262 (425 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level. As of November 2025, families are eligible for assistance regardless of income.

**NEW YORK:** As of June 2025, the income limit was increased to \$95,397 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate. 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 2024 and 2025 apply to families with children birth through age 5 and families with children of any age who have special needs; the income limit for families with children ages 6 to 13 without special needs was \$33,060 in 2024 and \$34,344 in 2025. This separate income limit for families with older children went into effect in October 2014. Also note that, in 2024, families (with children of all ages) 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 \$63,444. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit for this graduated phase-out period was \$68,436. As of July 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$53,304 (200 percent of poverty) for families with children birth through age 5 and to \$35,448 (133 percent of poverty) for families with children ages 6 to 13 to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level, and the income limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to \$78,096 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** In 2025, families whose incomes exceeded \$77,544 at recertification could continue receiving child care assistance, for up to an additional one year after their recertification, if their income did not exceed \$87,888. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit or graduated phase-out period in 2001 or 2024. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$81,840 (75 percent of state median income), and the income limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to \$92,748 (85 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**OHIO:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$74,580. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$77,460. 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 and families with children who have special needs was \$37,296 in 2024 and \$38,730 in 2025. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance for families other than those transitioning from TANF and families with children who have special needs was increased to \$38,643 (145 percent of poverty), the income limit to qualify for assistance for families transitioning from TANF was increased to \$39,984 (150 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit for all families was increased to \$79,950 (300 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level. Also note that, in 2025, families with incomes between \$37,439 (145 percent of poverty) and \$51,648 (200 percent of poverty) could qualify for child care assistance under a separate state program that began in April 2024.

**OKLAHOMA:** As of October 2025, the income limit was increased to \$67,068 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**OREGON:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$71,556. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$76,500. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of March 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$53,304 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level, and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$84,240 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** In 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$34,381. In 2024, the exit eligibility limit was \$74,580, and in 2025, it was \$77,460. As of May 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$53,300 (200 percent of poverty), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$79,950 (300 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level.

**RHODE ISLAND:** In the tables, the state's income limit in 2024 is calculated as a percentage of the 2023 federal poverty level and the state's income limit in 2025 is calculated as a percentage of the 2024 federal poverty level because most other states had not adjusted their income limits for the updated federal poverty level by February of each year, but Rhode Island had made the adjustment by that time, so its income limit was at 200 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level in February 2024 and 261 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level in February 2025. Also note that in 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$77,460 (300 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level). In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$79,950 (300 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level). The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$73,212 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate. Also note that in 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$24,763. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2024 or 2025.

**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, \$51,960 in 2024, and \$53,976 in 2025. As of March 2025, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$55,704 (209 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level. Also note that in 2024, 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 \$68,795. In 2025, the stated exit eligibility limit for this graduated phase-out period was \$75,492. As of October 2025, the stated exit eligibility limit for the graduated phase-out period was increased to \$79,380 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**TENNESSEE:** The income limits shown in the tables for 2024 and 2025 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 \$45,456 in 2024 and 2025. As of October 2025, the income limit for teen parents and Smart Steps was increased to \$73,344 (85 percent of state median income), and the income limit for other families was increased to \$51,768 (60 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**TEXAS:** Prior to October 2022—when a statewide income limit to qualify for assistance was established at 85 percent of state median income—local workforce development boards set their income limits to qualify for assistance within state guidelines. The range shown in the table for income limits in 2001 indicates the lowest and highest income limits set by local boards; in 2024 and 2025, all boards set their income limits at the same level, so a single income limit is shown for those years. (For the change in income limit between 2001 and 2025 shown in the table, the single income limit in 2025 was compared to the highest income limit set by local boards in 2001.) As of October 2025, the income limit was increased to \$77,315 (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, \$71,940 in 2024, and \$79,644 in 2025. As of October 2025, the stated income limit was increased to \$84,012 (85 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**VERMONT:** As of March 2025, the income limit was increased to \$153,240 (575 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level.

**VIRGINIA:** In 2001, the state had three separate income limits for different regions of the state; these income limits were: \$21,948, \$23,400, and \$27,060. In 2024 and 2025, there was a statewide income limit to qualify for assistance for families with at least one child under age 5, not yet in kindergarten; these are the income limits shown in the tables for 2024 and 2025. For other families, there were four separate regional income limits in 2024: \$34,548, \$36,852, \$42,612, and \$57,576. There were also four separate regional income limits in 2025: \$38,736 (150 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level), \$41,316 (160 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level), \$47,772 (185 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level), and \$64,548 (250 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level). (For the changes in income limits shown in the tables, the income limit for families with children under age 5 in 2025 was compared to the income limit for families with children under age 5 in 2024 and to the highest regional income limit in 2001.) Also note that in 2024, families already receiving assistance, with children of all ages and in all regions of the state, could continue receiving assistance until their income reached \$81,454. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit for all families was \$95,680 (85 percent of state median income).

**WASHINGTON:** In 2024, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$61,308. In 2025, the exit eligibility limit was \$71,544. The state did not have a separate exit eligibility limit in 2001. As of October 2025, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$70,212 (60 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to \$76,056 (65 percent of state median income), to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

**WISCONSIN:** In the tables, the state's income limit in 2024 is calculated as a percentage of the 2023 federal poverty level and the state's income limit in 2025 is calculated as a percentage of the 2024 federal poverty level because most other states had not adjusted their income limits for the updated federal poverty level by February of each year, but Wisconsin had made the adjustment by that time, so its income limit was at 185 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level in February 2024 and 200 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level in February 2025. Also note that in 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$29,256. In 2024, the exit eligibility limit was \$77,460, and in 2025, it was \$84,060 (85 percent of state median income).

**WYOMING:** The income limits shown in the tables for 2024 and 2025 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 \$43,500 in 2024 and \$45,180 in 2025. Also note that in 2001, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached \$27,060. In 2024, the stated exit eligibility limit was \$55,932, and in 2025, it was \$58,092. As of April 2025, the stated income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to \$46,632 (175 percent of poverty), and the stated exit eligibility limit was increased to \$59,964 (225 percent of poverty), to adjust for the 2025 federal poverty level.

# TABLE 2

## Waiting Lists for Child Care Assistance

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN OR FAMILIES ON WAITING LIST AS OF EARLY 2025	NUMBER OF CHILDREN OR FAMILIES ON WAITING LIST AS OF EARLY 2024	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*	900 children	No waiting list	No waiting list
Arkansas*	9 children	No waiting list	8,000 children
California*	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level
Colorado*	2,942 children	4 children	Waiting lists at local level
Connecticut*	1,239 children	964 children	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*	13,944 children	9,432 children	46,800 children
Georgia*	Frozen intake	Frozen intake	16,099 children
Hawai'i	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*	10,601 children	2,133 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*	4,902 children	6,162 children	No waiting list
Maine	506 children	No waiting list	2,000 children
Maryland*	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Massachusetts*	30,636 children	19,985 children	18,000 children
Michigan	No waiting list	No waiting list	No waiting list
Minnesota*	2,537 families	718 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*	Waiting list data not available	No waiting list	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*	No waiting list	Waiting lists at local level	Waiting lists at local level
North Carolina*	12,755 children	3,425 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*	17,769 children	2,949 families	No waiting list
Pennsylvania	No waiting list	No waiting list	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*	110,187 children	70,344 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*	14,182 children	No waiting list	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 2025 reflect policies as of February 2025, and data in the tables for 2024 reflect policies as of February 2024, unless otherwise indicated.

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

**ARIZONA:** The state started placing families on the waiting list in August 2024. Families receiving TANF and families referred by child protective services are served without being placed on the waiting list when there is one in effect.

**ARKANSAS:** The state started placing families on the waiting list in February 2025. Families receiving TANF, families experiencing homelessness, guardians and custodians, adoptive families, children transitioning from foster care, teen parents, children with special needs, and child care workers are served without being placed on the waiting list when there is one in effect.

**CALIFORNIA:** The estimated number of children on the waiting list in 2001 was 280,000; estimates for 2024 and 2025 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. In February 2024, one county (Gunnison) had a waiting list and one county (Larimer) had frozen intake. In February 2025, three counties (Chaffee, San Juan, and San Miguel) had waiting lists and 18 counties (Adams, Alamosa, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Montrose, Pueblo, Summit, and Weld) had frozen intake. As of August 2025, five counties had waiting lists and 19 counties had frozen intake. Families transitioning from TANF and families receiving child welfare child care are exempt from waiting lists when they are in effect. Counties may exempt other families from their waiting lists; 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.

**CONNECTICUT:** Data for February 2024 are not available, so data from March 2024 are used instead. Families receiving TANF, families experiencing homelessness, and families receiving protective services are served without being placed on 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.

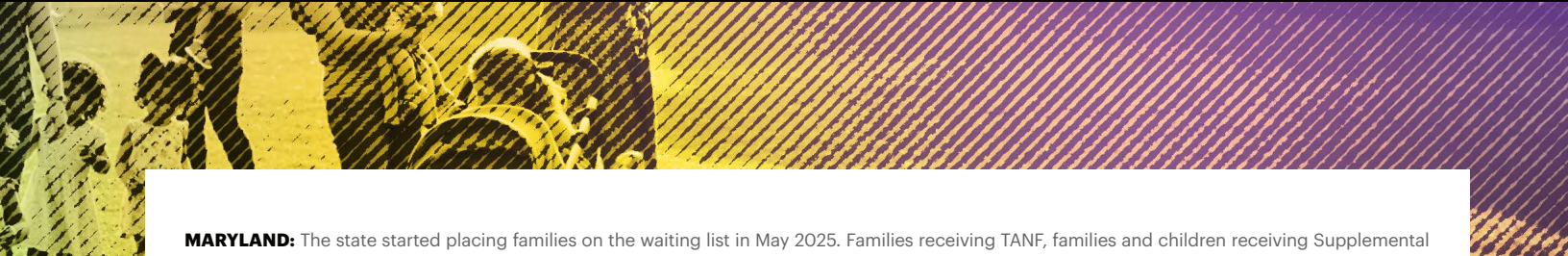
**FLORIDA:** Families receiving TANF and subject to federal work requirements and children up to age 9 receiving protective services, although not statutorily exempt from the waiting list, are prioritized for child care assistance.

**GEORGIA:** As of August 2016, the state froze intake for families who did not meet the priority criteria. In 2024 and 2025, 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 prekindergarten program, families experiencing state- or federally declared natural disasters, student parents, and families with very low incomes (which, as of October 2025, is defined as families with incomes at or below 30 percent of poverty; prior to that, it was defined as families with incomes at or below 50 percent of poverty for applications received before July 1, 2024, and as families with incomes at or below 10 percent of poverty for applications received on or after July 1, 2024).

**IDAHO:** The state froze intake between August 2024 and January 2025. Families who are applying for or receiving TANF, caring for a child with a disability, caring for a foster child, receiving preventive services through child welfare, or experiencing homelessness are exempt from the freeze when there is one in effect.

**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), Pregnancy Promise, Ivy Tech Community College, or Department of Corrections are given priority for services. Also note that in 2001, in addition to the waiting list, some counties had frozen intake.

**LOUISIANA:** Families receiving TANF and participating in the state's employment and training program, children in foster care, children with disabilities or special needs, families experiencing homelessness, and children participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program are served without being placed on the waiting list.



**MARYLAND:** The state started placing families on the waiting list in May 2025. Families receiving TANF, families and children receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and families already receiving child care assistance that need assistance for an additional child are served without being placed on the waiting list when there is one in effect.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Families receiving TANF and families referred by the Department of Children and Families are served without being placed on the waiting list. Families experiencing homelessness are given priority on the waiting list and served when funding is available. Families referred for homeless contracted slots through the Department of Housing and Livable Communities may also be served without being placed on the waiting list.

**MINNESOTA:** Families receiving TANF and families transitioning from TANF (for up to one year after their TANF case closes) are served without being placed on the waiting list. Parents under age 21 pursuing a high school degree or GED (and not receiving TANF) can receive child care assistance through a separate funding stream while on the waiting list for the primary child care assistance program.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The state started placing all families who were not in one of six priority categories on the waiting list in April 2025. Families receiving or transitioning from TANF, children in foster care, teen parents, families with children or parents with special needs, deployed military families, and homeless families receive priority and are served without being placed on the waiting list when there is one in effect.

**NEVADA:** The state started placing families on the waiting list as of April 2024. Data on the number of children on the waiting list in February 2025 are not available. 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 served without being placed on the waiting list when there is one in effect.

**NEW JERSEY:** The state froze intake starting in August 2025. Families receiving or transitioning from TANF, families receiving child protective services, and families receiving Post-Adoption Child Care (PACC) are exempt from the freeze. Also note that 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 on the total number of children and/or families on local waiting lists were not available prior to April 2025, when the state began collecting data from local districts. Each local district also has the authority to freeze intake and stop adding names to its waiting list. In February 2025, no local district had a waiting list. In April 2025, 10 out of 58 local districts reported they were placing families on waiting lists or had frozen intake, and in September 2025, 23 local districts had waiting lists or frozen intake. 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 when a district has one in effect.

**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.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** The state started placing families on the waiting list in December 2025.

**OREGON:** Families receiving TANF, State Family Pre-Supplemental Security Income, or Refugee benefits, families eligible for Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS), families referred by the Child Welfare division, children participating in a Head Start or Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program, and families reapplying for child care assistance within two months of benefits ending are served without being placed on the waiting list when there is one in effect. Also note that the waiting list total for 2025 in the table includes all children under age 18 in families on the waiting list, but care may not have been requested for all of them.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** The state froze intake starting in December 2025. TANF families, children with special needs, homeless families, and families receiving child welfare services are exempt from the freeze.

**TENNESSEE:** The state started placing families on the waiting list in August 2025 for its Smart Steps Child Care Payment Assistance category of care (which supports families with parents who are working or pursuing post-secondary education goals). Also note that 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, and families referred by child protective services are served without being placed on the waiting list. In addition, children experiencing homelessness are prioritized for services.

**VIRGINIA:** The state began placing families on the waiting list in July 2024. Families participating in the TANF education and work program, families transitioning from TANF, families participating in Learnfare, and families participating in the SNAP Employment and Training program are served without being placed on the waiting list when there is one in effect. Also note that data for December 2001 are not available, so data from January 2001 are used instead.

# 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 2025		MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2024		MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2001		CHANGE 2024 TO 2025		CHANGE 2001 TO 2025	
	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*	\$143	4%	\$143	4%	\$215	12%	\$0	0%	-\$72	-7%
Alaska*	\$197	6%	\$192	6%	\$71	4%	\$5	0%	\$126	2%
Arizona*	\$32	1%	\$32	1%	\$217	12%	\$0	0%	-\$185	-11%
Arkansas*	\$0	0%	\$29	1%	\$224	12%	-\$29	-1%	-\$224	-12%
California*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Colorado*	\$198	6%	\$194	6%	\$185	10%	\$4	0%	\$13	-4%
Connecticut*	\$100	3%	\$194	6%	\$110	6%	-\$94	-3%	-\$10	-3%
Delaware*	\$233	7%	\$290	9%	\$159	9%	-\$57	-2%	\$74	-2%
District of Columbia*	\$40	1%	\$70	2%	\$91	5%	-\$30	-1%	-\$51	-4%
Florida*	\$186	6%	\$186	6%	\$104	6%	\$0	0%	\$82	0%
Georgia*	\$229	7%	\$225	7%	\$139	8%	\$4	0%	\$90	-1%
Hawai'i*	\$167	5%	\$129	4%	\$38	2%	\$37	1%	\$129	3%
Idaho*	Not eligible	Not eligible	\$50	2%	Not eligible	Not eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Illinois*	\$200	6%	\$193	6%	\$134	7%	\$7	0%	\$66	-1%
Indiana*	\$301	9%	\$292	9%	\$154	8%	\$9	0%	\$147	1%
Iowa*	\$182	5%	\$182	6%	Not eligible	Not eligible	\$0	0%	N/A	N/A
Kansas*	\$97	3%	\$93	3%	\$162	9%	\$4	0%	-\$65	-6%
Kentucky*	\$173	5%	\$0	0%	\$177	10%	\$173	5%	-\$4	-4%
Louisiana*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$114	6%	\$0	0%	-\$114	-6%
Maine*	\$333	10%	\$323	10%	\$183	10%	\$10	0%	\$150	0%
Maryland*	\$13	0%	\$13	0%	\$236	13%	\$0	0%	-\$223	-13%
Massachusetts*	\$68	2%	\$67	2%	\$160	9%	\$1	0%	-\$92	-7%
Michigan*	\$0	0%	\$32	1%	\$24	1%	-\$32	-1%	-\$24	-1%
Minnesota*	\$46	1%	\$95	3%	\$53	3%	-\$49	-2%	-\$7	-2%
Mississippi*	\$200	6%	\$195	6%	\$105	6%	\$5	0%	\$95	0%
Missouri*	\$162	5%	\$162	5%	Not eligible	Not eligible	\$0	0%	N/A	N/A
Montana*	\$167	5%	\$193	6%	\$256	14%	-\$26	-1%	-\$89	-9%
Nebraska*	\$233	7%	\$226	7%	\$129	7%	\$7	0%	\$104	0%
Nevada*	Not eligible	Not eligible	\$0	0%	\$281	15%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Hampshire*	\$233	7%	\$226	7%	\$2	0%	\$7	0%	\$231	7%
New Jersey*	\$67	2%	\$0	0%	\$133	7%	\$67	2%	-\$66	-5%
New Mexico*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$115	6%	\$0	0%	-\$115	-6%
New York*	\$11	0%	\$11	0%	\$191	10%	\$0	0%	-\$180	-10%
North Carolina*	\$332	10%	\$323	10%	\$159	9%	\$10	0%	\$173	1%
North Dakota*	\$66	2%	\$281	9%	\$293	16%	-\$215	-7%	-\$227	-14%
Ohio*	\$292	9%	\$284	9%	\$88	5%	\$7	0%	\$204	4%
Oklahoma*	\$226	7%	\$113	4%	\$146	8%	\$113	3%	\$80	-1%
Oregon*	\$10	0%	\$10	0%	\$319	17%	\$0	0%	-\$309	-17%
Pennsylvania*	\$191	6%	\$182	6%	\$152	8%	\$9	0%	\$39	-3%
Rhode Island*	\$167	5%	\$161	5%	\$19	1%	\$5	0%	\$148	4%
South Carolina*	\$26	1%	\$48	1%	\$77	4%	-\$22	-1%	-\$51	-3%
South Dakota*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$365	20%	\$0	0%	-\$365	-20%
Tennessee*	\$167	5%	\$229	7%	\$112	6%	-\$63	-2%	\$55	-1%
Texas*	\$167	5%	\$270	8%	\$256	14%	-\$103	-3%	-\$89	-9%
Utah*	\$86	3%	\$120	4%	\$220	12%	-\$34	-1%	-\$134	-9%
Vermont*	\$0	0%	\$108	3%	\$123	7%	-\$108	-3%	-\$123	-7%
Virginia*	\$60	2%	\$60	2%	\$183	10%	\$0	0%	-\$123	-8%
Washington*	\$90	3%	\$90	3%	\$87	5%	\$0	0%	\$3	-2%
West Virginia*	\$108	3%	\$152	5%	\$54	3%	-\$44	-1%	\$54	0%
Wisconsin*	\$251	8%	\$243	8%	\$160	9%	\$8	0%	\$91	-1%
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 2025		MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2024		MONTHLY COPAYMENT IN 2001		CHANGE 2024 TO 2025		CHANGE 2001 TO 2025	
	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	-2%
Alaska*	\$87	4%	\$85	4%	\$14	1%	\$2	0%	\$73	3%
Arizona*	\$32	1%	\$32	1%	\$65	5%	\$0	0%	-\$33	-4%
Arkansas*	\$0	0%	\$29	1%	\$0	0%	-\$29	-1%	\$0	0%
California*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Colorado*	\$31	1%	\$32	1%	\$113	9%	-\$1	0%	-\$82	-8%
Connecticut*	\$67	3%	\$86	4%	\$49	4%	-\$19	-1%	\$18	-1%
Delaware*	\$0	0%	\$86	4%	\$55	5%	-\$86	-4%	-\$55	-5%
District of Columbia*	\$0	0%	\$27	1%	\$32	3%	-\$27	-1%	-\$32	-3%
Florida*	\$108	5%	\$108	5%	\$69	6%	\$0	0%	\$39	-1%
Georgia*	\$152	7%	\$147	7%	\$21	2%	\$5	0%	\$131	5%
Hawai'i*	\$22	1%	\$22	1%	\$0	0%	\$1	0%	\$22	1%
Idaho*	\$25	1%	\$20	1%	\$65	5%	\$5	0%	-\$40	-4%
Illinois*	\$23	1%	\$22	1%	\$65	5%	\$1	0%	-\$42	-4%
Indiana*	\$112	5%	\$108	5%	\$0	0%	\$4	0%	\$112	5%
Iowa*	\$19	1%	\$19	1%	\$22	2%	\$0	0%	-\$3	-1%
Kansas*	\$65	3%	\$62	3%	\$22	2%	\$3	0%	\$43	1%
Kentucky*	\$108	5%	\$0	0%	\$97	8%	\$108	5%	\$11	-3%
Louisiana*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$49	4%	\$0	0%	-\$49	-4%
Maine*	\$178	8%	\$172	8%	\$97	8%	\$5	0%	\$81	0%
Maryland*	\$13	1%	\$13	1%	\$90	7%	\$0	0%	-\$77	-7%
Massachusetts*	\$3	0%	\$3	0%	\$40	3%	\$0	0%	-\$37	-3%
Michigan*	\$0	0%	\$32	2%	\$24	2%	-\$32	-2%	-\$24	-2%
Minnesota*	\$32	1%	\$65	3%	\$5	0%	-\$33	-2%	\$27	1%
Mississippi*	\$146	7%	\$108	5%	\$47	4%	\$38	2%	\$99	3%
Missouri*	\$108	5%	\$108	5%	\$43	4%	\$0	0%	\$65	1%
Montana*	\$11	0%	\$11	1%	\$49	4%	\$0	0%	-\$38	-4%
Nebraska*	\$155	7%	\$151	7%	\$30	2%	\$4	0%	\$125	5%
Nevada*	\$90	4%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$90	4%	\$90	4%
New Hampshire*	\$22	1%	\$22	1%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$22	1%
New Jersey*	\$44	2%	\$0	0%	\$71	6%	\$44	2%	-\$27	-4%
New Mexico*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$47	4%	\$0	0%	-\$47	-4%
New York*	\$4	0%	\$4	0%	\$4	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
North Carolina*	\$221	10%	\$215	10%	\$106	9%	\$6	0%	\$115	1%
North Dakota*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$158	13%	\$0	0%	-\$158	-13%
Ohio*	\$158	7%	\$149	7%	\$43	4%	\$9	0%	\$115	4%
Oklahoma*	\$159	7%	\$80	4%	\$54	4%	\$79	3%	\$105	3%
Oregon*	\$5	0%	\$5	0%	\$90	7%	\$0	0%	-\$85	-7%
Pennsylvania*	\$108	5%	\$104	5%	\$65	5%	\$4	0%	\$43	0%
Rhode Island*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$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%	\$152	7%	\$39	3%	-\$152	-7%	-\$39	-3%
Texas*	\$88	4%	\$170	8%	\$170	14%	-\$82	-4%	-\$82	-10%
Utah*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$36	3%	\$0	0%	-\$36	-3%
Vermont*	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
Virginia*	\$60	3%	\$60	3%	\$122	10%	\$0	0%	-\$62	-7%
Washington*	\$65	3%	\$65	3%	\$20	2%	\$0	0%	\$45	1%
West Virginia*	\$70	3%	\$103	5%	\$27	2%	-\$33	-2%	\$43	1%
Wisconsin*	\$0	0%	\$112	5%	\$61	5%	-\$112	-5%	-\$61	-5%
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, \$25,820 in 2024, and \$26,650 in 2025.*

*For a family of three, an income at 150 percent of poverty was equal to \$21,945 a year in 2001, \$38,730 in 2024, and \$39,975 in 2025.*

*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 4-year-old.*

*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.*

*Some states waived copayments for all families in 2024 and/or 2025. 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.*

*Data in the tables for 2025 reflect policies as of February 2025, data in the tables for 2024 reflect policies as of February 2024, and data in the tables for 2001 reflect policies as of June 2001, unless otherwise indicated. Certain changes in policies since February 2025 are noted below.*

**ALABAMA:** Foster families, families receiving protective services, families participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program, and children with special needs (until the third year of eligibility) are exempt from copayments. Families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**ALASKA:** Families applying for or receiving TANF, children receiving protective services, and foster children are exempt from copayments.

**ARIZONA:** Parents receiving TANF (Cash Assistance) who are employed, families participating in the Cash Assistance Grant Diversion program, families referred by the TANF Jobs Program, and children receiving protective services are exempt from copayments.

**ARKANSAS:** Under a new copayment schedule adopted by the state as of November 2025, the copayment is calculated as a percentage of the payment rate, with families at higher income levels paying a higher percentage. Prior to November 2025, copayments varied with the quality level of the care a family used, with a family paying 4 percent of the cost of care if using a provider with a two-star rating in the state's quality rating and improvement system (which currently has six star levels), and 2 percent if using a provider with a three-star rating or higher. The copayment amounts shown in the tables for 2024 and 2025 assume the family was using a two-star provider, since as of July 2022, all providers serving families receiving child care assistance must be at the two-star level or higher. (Prior to that, all providers serving families receiving child care assistance had to be at the one-star level or higher; families paid 6 percent of the cost of care if using a one-star provider.) Also note that families receiving TANF, families in their first year of transitioning from TANF, foster children, adoptive families, guardians, homeless families, child care workers, and teen parents are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 40 percent of the 2023 state median income (\$25,017 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 75 percent of the 2025 state median income (\$54,543 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025. As of November 2025, families with incomes below 40 percent of the 2026 state median income (\$30,334 a year for a family of three) are exempt from copayments.

**CALIFORNIA:** Families receiving TANF and families receiving services for children with special needs are exempt from copayments. Families experiencing homelessness are exempt from copayments in pilot counties where approved policy flexibilities supersede state law. As of January 2026, families with children who have been identified as at risk of abuse or neglect or who are receiving protective services may be exempt from copayments for 24 months when the referral indicates that the fee is waived; prior to January 2026, these families could be exempt from copayments for 12 months. In addition, families with incomes below 75 percent of the 2023 state median income (\$73,380 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024 and families with incomes below 75 percent of the 2024 state median income (\$79,116 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**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 experiencing homelessness do not have a parent fee assessed during a 60-day stabilization period.

**CONNECTICUT:** TANF families participating in approved training activities who have no earned income, foster children, children in the first year following adoption, and families experiencing homelessness are exempt from copayments.

**DELAWARE:** Families receiving TANF, foster parents, families referred from the Division of Family Services, children receiving TANF and being cared for by a caretaker, and parents age 18 or younger and attending high school are exempt from copayments. Families with incomes below 70 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$17,400 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 150 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** As of October 2024, TANF recipients and payees, parents or guardians engaged in job search, SNAP Employment and Training participants, children receiving protective services, children with disabilities, children of adults with disabilities, children experiencing homelessness, children of teen parents, children of elder caregivers, children enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start, or the Early Learning Quality Improvement Network, children in families experiencing domestic or family violence, and children with parents or guardians participating in addiction recovery programs are exempt from copayments. Prior to October 2024, TANF recipients and payees, parents or guardians with physical or mental disabilities, unemployed parents or guardians receiving vocational rehabilitation services, children receiving protective services, children in foster care, children experiencing homelessness, and teen parents in junior and senior high school were exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 150 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**FLORIDA:** Prior to July 2025, 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. As of July 2025, copayments are set at the state level. 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 or 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 or the family is participating in an Early Head Start or Head Start Program.

**GEORGIA:** Prior to October 2025, the state discounted copayments by 15 percent for families 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 foster children and parents under age 18 are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 10 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$2,486 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 10 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level (\$2,582 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**HAWAII:** Families receiving protective services and caretakers who are foster parents are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level for Hawai'i (\$24,540 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024 and 2025.

**IDAHO:** Families receiving TANF who 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; families experiencing homelessness; families receiving Youth in Care Services or Extended Family Support Program services through the Department of Children and Family Services; and families in which a parent in the household is called into active military duty are exempt from copayments. Copayments are \$1 per month for families with a parent or guardian working as a licensed child care provider. Copayments were also \$1 per month for families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) in 2024 and for families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level in 2025.

**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, licensed foster families, and families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**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). Also note that families receiving TANF, families receiving protective services, and foster families are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**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 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**KENTUCKY:** Families in which the parent is employed by an approved child care facility are exempt from copayments. Families referred by the Division of Protection and Permanency are exempt from copayments as of October 2024; prior to that, families referred by the Division of Protection and Permanency were exempt from copayments only if referred for protective service reasons. Regardless of family size, families with incomes at or below \$16,788 a year were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below \$19,200 a year were exempt from copayments in 2025. In addition, copayments were waived for all families from March 2020 until October 2024.

**LOUISIANA:** Families receiving TANF, foster children, families experiencing homelessness, families participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program, and (as of October 2024) children with special needs are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 64 percent of the 2024 state median income (\$46,740 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 64 percent of the 2025 state median income (\$51,504 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025. Also note that data are not available for June 2001, so data from March 2000 are used instead.

**MAINE:** As of May 2025, families with incomes below 30 percent of the 2025 state median income (\$28,762 a year for a family of three) are exempt from copayments.

**MARYLAND:** Families receiving TANF, SSI, SNAP, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition, Welfare Avoidance Grant (WAG), or Guaranteed Basic Income Program benefits, families participating in Head Start or the state-funded prekindergarten program, minor parents, migrant workers, families experiencing homelessness, and families participating in the Federal Housing Act Housing Choice Voucher program are exempt from copayments. In addition, as of October 2024, copayments are waived for families with incomes below \$3,000 a year.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Families receiving or transitioning from TANF, homeless families, foster parents, guardians, caretakers, and families receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**MICHIGAN:** Families receiving TANF, children receiving protective services, foster children, families receiving SSI benefits, migrant farmworker families, homeless families, and children attending programs that attain certain quality levels in the state's quality rating and improvement system are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 200 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level (\$51,648 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**MINNESOTA:** Families with incomes below 75 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$18,645 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 75 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level (\$19,365 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**MISSISSIPPI:** Families receiving TANF and homeless families with no countable income are exempt from copayments. Families transitioning from TANF, children receiving protective services, children participating in the home visitation program, children with special needs, parents with a disability who are receiving SSI benefits, and teen parents have a copayment of \$10 per month. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2021 federal poverty level (\$21,960 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024 and 2025.

**MISSOURI:** Children with disabilities who are receiving SSI benefits, children receiving services through the Department of Mental Health, children with developmental delays, children receiving protective services, children with adoption subsidies, children under court-ordered supervision, and homeless families are exempt from copayments.

**MONTANA:** Children receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. Also note that as of July 2025, the state capped copayments at 7 percent of income.

**NEBRASKA:** TANF families and families receiving child care for child welfare are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025. 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, families receiving wrap-around services (services provided before and after Head Start programs), and families using only Out-of-School Time or Out-of-School Recreation (OSR) providers are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 33 percent of the 2025 state median income (\$26,616 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025. Also note that copayments were waived for all families from July 2022 through September 2024.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Children receiving child care as a preventive service if they are at risk for abuse or neglect are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**NEW JERSEY:** Families with children receiving protective services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025. Copayments were waived for all families from November 2021 through July 2024. The state increased copayments as of August 2025.

**NEW MEXICO:** Copayments have been waived for all families since May 2022; families will be given three months' notice before copayments are resumed.

**NEW YORK:** Prior to June 2023, local social services districts set their copayments within a state-specified range; the copayments in the tables for 2001 reflect the maximum amounts allowed in that range. As of June 2023, a uniform copayment schedule is used statewide, with copayments set at the minimum level of the range within which local districts previously were allowed to set copayments. Families receiving TANF and participating in their required activity, foster families, homeless families, families receiving child care assistance as a protective or preventive service, and children residing with a caretaker other than a parent or person with financial responsibility for the child are exempt from copayments. 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.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Families receiving TANF, families receiving services through the Crossroads program (which provides support to parents up to age 21 so they can continue their education), and child care employees are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes up to 30 percent of the 2024 state median income (\$28,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes up to 30 percent of the 2025 state median income (\$31,020 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**OHIO:** Homeless families and families receiving protective child care services are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**OKLAHOMA:** Families receiving TANF, foster children, children under age 6 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, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2021 federal poverty level (\$21,960 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024 and 2025. Copayments were waived for all families from April 2020 through September 2023. The state covered 50 percent of families' copayments from October 2023 through September 2024 (which is reflected in the copayment amounts shown in the tables for 2024). Parents were responsible for paying their full copayment amount as of October 2024.

**OREGON:** Families receiving TANF and with a working parent, families transitioning from TANF, families with a parent searching for a job following the loss of employment or with an unemployed parent who has moved into the home, families on authorized medical leave, and families receiving services through a Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, Teen Parent Program, or Baby Promise contracted slot are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Families receiving TANF benefits and with parents who are not working, but who are participating in employment and training programs, are exempt from copayments. As of May 2025, copayments were reduced and capped at 7 percent of income.

**RHODE ISLAND:** 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 at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Families receiving TANF, foster children, homeless families, dual language learners, families receiving protective services, and families participating in Head Start are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes below 150 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Families receiving TANF and children in protective custody are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with adjusted incomes at or below 170 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$42,264 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with adjusted incomes at or below 170 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level (\$43,896 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**TENNESSEE:** Families receiving TANF are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 150 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025. The state no longer exempted families with incomes below 150 percent of the federal poverty level as of October 2025.

**TEXAS:** As of January 2025, the state adopted a statewide copayment schedule and capped copayments at 7 percent of income. Prior to that, local workforce development boards set their copayments within state guidelines; the copayments in the tables for 2001 and 2024 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 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with adjusted incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**VERMONT:** Families receiving TANF, foster children, children who have an adoption assistance agreement with the state, and children under legal guardianship with a guardian who is receiving a TANF Child Only grant are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 150 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$37,290 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 175 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level (\$45,180 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**VIRGINIA:** Families receiving TANF are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2022 federal poverty level (\$23,030 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025. As of July 2025, the state implemented a new copayment schedule that increased copayments for most families but capped copayments at 5 percent of income.

**WASHINGTON:** Children who have received 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. Families experiencing homelessness are exempt from copayments during a 12-month grace period. In addition, families with incomes below 20 percent of the 2023 state median income (\$18,864 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with incomes below 20 percent of the 2025 state median income (\$22,017 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Children in approved foster homes or approved kinship/relative homes are exempt from copayments. Families receiving protective services may have their copayments waived. 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 2024, and families with incomes at or below 40 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level (\$10,332 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**WISCONSIN:** TANF families, 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. In addition, families with incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2025 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

**WYOMING:** Foster families are exempt from copayments. In addition, families with adjusted incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2023 federal poverty level (\$24,860 a year for a family of three) were exempt from copayments in 2024, and families with adjusted incomes at or below 100 percent of the 2024 federal poverty level were exempt from copayments in 2025.

# TABLE 4A

## State Payment Rates in 2025

	STATE PAYMENT RATES IN 2025 COMPARED TO MARKET RATES	YEAR WHEN PAYMENT RATES LAST CHANGED
Alabama*	25th-75th percentile of 2024 rates	2022
Alaska*	Below the 75th percentile of 2023 rates	2023
Arizona*	50th-75th percentile of 2022 rates	2023/2024
Arkansas*	75th percentile of 2023 rates	2024
California*	75th percentile of 2018 rates	2022
Colorado*	25th-75th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Connecticut*	16th-87th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Delaware*	50th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
District of Columbia*	Based on cost modeling, not market survey	2023
Florida*	28th percentile of 2023-24 rates	2024
Georgia*	60th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Hawai'i*	14th percentile of 2023 rates	2022
Idaho*	75th-85th percentile of 2021 rates	2021
Illinois*	41st-99th percentile of 2023 rates	2022/2024
Indiana*	41st-100th percentile of 2020 rates	2023
Iowa*	65th-75th percentile of 2023 rates	2024
Kansas*	75th-above the 95th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Kentucky*	80th percentile of 2024 rates	2021/2022
Louisiana*	50th-90th percentile of 2023 rates	2022
Maine*	50th-75th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Maryland*	75th percentile of 2021 rates	2022
Massachusetts*	Below the 75th percentile of 2022 rates	2024
Michigan*	Below the 75th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Minnesota*	75th percentile of 2024 rates	2025
Mississippi*	At or below the 75th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Missouri*	65th-100th percentile of 2022 rates	2024
Montana*	75th percentile of 2023 rates	2024
Nebraska*	75th percentile of 2023 rates	2023
Nevada*	95th percentile of 2018 rates	2022/2023
New Hampshire*	75th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
New Jersey*	50th-75th percentile of 2023 rates	2024
New Mexico*	Based on cost modeling, not market survey	2023
New York*	At or above the 80th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
North Carolina*	At or above the 75th percentile of 2021 rates	2023
North Dakota*	75th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Ohio*	50th percentile of 2022 rates	2024
Oklahoma*	54th-85th percentile of 2021 rates	2018/2020/2023
Oregon*	Above or below the 75th percentile of 2022 rates	2024
Pennsylvania*	75th percentile of 2022 rates	2025
Rhode Island*	Below the 75th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
South Carolina*	75th-95th percentile of 2020 rates	2021
South Dakota*	At or below the 75th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Tennessee*	51st-83rd percentile of 2023-24 rates	2024
Texas*	75th-99th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Utah*	50th-60th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Vermont*	88th-98th percentile of 2024 rates	2023
Virginia*	Based on cost modeling, not market survey	2022/2023
Washington*	At or below the 85th percentile of 2021 rates	2023
West Virginia*	75th percentile of 2024 rates	2024
Wisconsin*	41st percentile of 2023 rates	2022
Wyoming*	50th percentile of 2022 rates	2023

## TABLE 4B

### State Payment Rates Compared to the 75th Percentile of Current Market Rates in 2001, 2024, and 2025

	RATES EQUAL TO OR ABOVE THE 75TH PERCENTILE OF CURRENT MARKET RATES...		
	IN 2025?	IN 2024?	IN 2001?
Alabama	No	No	Yes
Alaska	No	No	No
Arizona	No	No	No
Arkansas*	Yes	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	N/A	No
Hawai'i	No	No	No
Idaho	No	No	Yes
Illinois	No	No	No
Indiana	No	No	Yes
Iowa*	No	No	No
Kansas*	Yes	No	No
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louisiana*	No	No	Yes
Maine*	No	No	Yes
Maryland	No	No	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	No
Michigan	No	No	No
Minnesota*	Yes	No	Yes
Mississippi	No	No	Yes
Missouri*	No	No	No
Montana*	Yes	No	No
Nebraska*	Yes	Yes	No
Nevada*	No	No	Yes
New Hampshire*	Yes	No	No
New Jersey*	No	No	No
New Mexico*	N/A	N/A	No
New York*	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Carolina*	No	No	No
North Dakota*	Yes	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*	No	Yes	Yes
Tennessee	No	No	No
Texas*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utah	No	No	No
Vermont	Yes	Yes	No
Virginia*	No	No	No
Washington*	No	Yes	No
West Virginia*	Yes	No	Yes
Wisconsin	No	Yes	Yes
Wyoming	No	No	Yes

# TABLE 4C

## Change in State Base Payment Rates Between 2024 and 2025

		CENTER CARE FOR A 4-YEAR-OLD			CENTER CARE FOR A 1-YEAR-OLD		
		Monthly state base payment rate in 2024	Monthly state base payment rate in 2025	Change in base payment rate 2024 to 2025	Monthly state base payment rate in 2024	Monthly state base payment rate in 2025	Change in base payment rate 2024 to 2025
Alabama	Huntsville	\$662	\$662	\$0	\$714	\$714	\$0
Alaska	Anchorage	\$1,019	\$1,019	\$0	\$1,135	\$1,135	\$0
Arizona*	Statewide	\$883	\$909	\$26	\$999	\$1,054	\$55
Arkansas*	Urban Areas	\$714	\$714	\$0	\$779	\$801	\$22
California	Los Angeles County	\$1,253	\$1,253	\$0	\$1,688	\$1,688	\$0
Colorado*	Denver County	\$1,074	\$1,096	\$21	\$1,445	\$1,558	\$113
Connecticut*	North Central Region	\$974	\$1,083	\$108	\$1,468	\$1,628	\$160
Delaware*	Statewide	\$1,061	\$1,104	\$43	\$1,221	\$1,256	\$35
District of Columbia*	Citywide	\$1,364	\$1,364	\$0	\$2,136	\$2,136	\$0
Florida*	Miami-Dade County	\$606	\$606	\$0	\$883	\$896	\$13
Georgia*	Zone 1	\$593	\$957	\$364	\$688	\$1,074	\$386
Hawai'i	Statewide	\$795	\$795	\$0	\$1,733	\$1,733	\$0
Idaho*	Cluster 3	\$877	\$877	\$0	\$1,039	\$1,039	\$0
Illinois*	Metropolitan Region	\$996	\$996	\$0	\$1,451	\$1,451	\$0
Indiana*	Marion County	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,416	\$1,416	\$0
Iowa*	Statewide	\$835	\$858	\$23	\$1,021	\$1,129	\$108
Kansas*	Sedgwick County	\$813	\$888	\$75	\$931	\$1,135	\$204
Kentucky	Jefferson County	\$888	\$888	\$0	\$1,018	\$1,018	\$0
Louisiana	Statewide	\$682	\$682	\$0	\$909	\$909	\$0
Maine*	Cumberland County	\$1,139	\$1,299	\$160	\$1,312	\$1,429	\$117
Maryland*	Region W	\$1,134	\$1,134	\$0	\$1,602	\$1,602	\$0
Massachusetts*	Northeast (Region 3)	\$1,255	\$1,279	\$24	\$2,210	\$2,387	\$177
Michigan*	Statewide	\$857	\$984	\$127	\$1,208	\$1,393	\$185
Minnesota*	Hennepin County	\$1,438	\$1,725	\$288	\$1,849	\$2,219	\$370
Mississippi*	Metro Counties	\$585	\$650	\$65	\$658	\$723	\$65
Missouri*	St. Louis	\$676	\$909	\$233	\$1,140	\$1,949	\$809
Montana*	Statewide	\$866	\$1,191	\$325	\$974	\$1,256	\$281
Nebraska*	Urban Counties	\$1,007	\$1,007	\$0	\$1,261	\$1,261	\$0
Nevada*	Clark County	\$1,115	\$1,115	\$0	\$1,353	\$1,353	\$0
New Hampshire*	Statewide	\$1,043	\$1,212	\$170	\$1,277	\$1,491	\$214
New Jersey*	Statewide	\$1,226	\$1,250	\$24	\$1,549	\$1,572	\$23
New Mexico*	Statewide	\$700	\$700	\$0	\$1,075	\$1,075	\$0
New York*	New York City	\$1,407	\$1,901	\$494	\$1,758	\$2,165	\$407
North Carolina*	Mecklenburg County	\$1,276	\$1,276	\$0	\$1,405	\$1,405	\$0
North Dakota*	Statewide	\$811	\$1,040	\$229	\$1,278	\$1,278	\$0
Ohio*	Franklin County	\$909	\$1,005	\$95	\$1,147	\$1,277	\$130
Oklahoma*	Statewide	\$476	\$476	\$0	\$541	\$541	\$0
Oregon*	Group Area A	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,997	\$1,997	\$0
Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia	\$1,081	\$1,217	\$136	\$1,218	\$1,375	\$157
Rhode Island*	Statewide	\$974	\$1,023	\$49	\$1,147	\$1,205	\$57
South Carolina	Urban	\$827	\$827	\$0	\$922	\$922	\$0
South Dakota*	Minnehaha County	\$838	\$1,101	\$263	\$955	\$1,169	\$214
Tennessee*	Top Tier Counties	\$932	\$901	-\$31	\$1,346	\$1,295	-\$51
Texas*	Gulf Coast Area	\$862	\$879	\$17	\$1,009	\$1,009	\$0
Utah*	Statewide	\$783	\$875	\$92	\$1,172	\$1,230	\$58
Vermont*	Statewide	\$1,901	\$1,901	\$0	\$2,039	\$2,039	\$0
Virginia*	Fairfax County	\$1,516	\$1,516	\$0	\$2,035	\$2,035	\$0
Washington*	King County	\$1,855	\$1,855	\$0	\$2,199	\$2,199	\$0
West Virginia*	Statewide	\$693	\$758	\$65	\$779	\$844	\$65
Wisconsin*	Milwaukee County	\$1,196	\$1,196	\$0	\$1,491	\$1,491	\$0
Wyoming	Statewide	\$678	\$678	\$0	\$746	\$746	\$0

# TABLE 4D

## State Payment Rates in 2025 Compared to Market Rates for Child Care Centers

		CENTER CARE FOR A 4-YEAR-OLD					CENTER CARE FOR A 1-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	Huntsville	\$675	\$844	2024	-\$169	-20%	\$727	\$909	2024	-\$182	-20%
Alaska	Anchorage	\$1,019	\$1,150	2023	-\$131	-11%	\$1,135	\$1,500	2023	-\$365	-24%
Arizona*	Statewide	\$1,364	\$1,147	2024	\$217	19%	\$1,582	\$1,340	2024	\$241	18%
Arkansas*	Urban Areas	\$714	\$714	2023	\$0	0%	\$801	\$801	2023	\$0	0%
California	Los Angeles County	\$1,253	\$1,328	2021	-\$75	-6%	\$1,688	\$1,752	2021	-\$64	-4%
Colorado*	Denver County	\$1,401	\$1,481	2022	-\$80	-5%	\$2,183	\$1,949	2022	\$235	12%
Connecticut*	North Central Region	\$1,353	\$1,516	2024	-\$162	-11%	\$1,628	\$1,840	2024	-\$212	-12%
Delaware*	Statewide	\$1,104	\$1,308	2024	-\$204	-16%	\$1,256	\$1,489	2024	-\$233	-16%
District of Columbia*	Citywide	\$1,446	\$2,186	2022	-\$740	-34%	\$2,322	\$2,414	2022	-\$92	-4%
Florida*	Miami-Dade County	\$778	\$1,083	2023-24	-\$304	-28%	\$1,151	\$1,256	2023-24	-\$105	-8%
Georgia*	Zone 1	\$957	\$1,190	2024	-\$233	-20%	\$1,074	\$1,295	2024	-\$221	-17%
Hawai'i*	Statewide	\$795	\$1,210	2023	-\$415	-34%	\$1,733	\$2,260	2023	-\$527	-23%
Idaho*	Cluster 3	\$877	\$1,176	2024	-\$299	-25%	\$1,039	\$1,317	2024	-\$278	-21%
Illinois*	Metropolitan Region	\$996	\$1,407	2023	-\$411	-29%	\$1,451	\$1,797	2023	-\$346	-19%
Indiana*	Marion County	\$1,277	\$1,065	2020	\$212	20%	\$1,619	\$1,342	2020	\$277	21%
Iowa*	Statewide	\$858	\$946	2023	-\$88	-9%	\$1,129	\$1,129	2023	\$0	0%
Kansas*	Sedgwick County	\$888	\$888	2024	\$0	0%	\$1,135	\$993	2024	\$142	14%
Kentucky	Jefferson County	\$888	\$779	2024	\$108	14%	\$1,018	\$975	2024	\$43	4%
Louisiana	Statewide	\$682	\$779	2023	-\$97	-13%	\$909	\$909	2023	\$0	0%
Maine*	Cumberland County	\$1,299	\$1,394	2024	-\$95	-7%	\$1,429	\$1,663	2024	-\$234	-14%
Maryland*	Region W	\$1,134	\$1,443	2024	-\$309	-21%	\$1,602	\$1,949	2024	-\$346	-18%
Massachusetts*	Northeast (Region 3)	\$1,279	\$1,953	2024	-\$674	-34%	\$2,387	\$2,403	2024	-\$16	-1%
Michigan*	Statewide	\$984	\$1,233	2023	-\$249	-20%	\$1,393	\$1,516	2023	-\$123	-8%
Minnesota*	Hennepin County	\$2,070	\$1,725	2024	\$345	20%	\$2,662	\$2,219	2024	\$444	20%
Mississippi*	Metro Counties	\$650	\$714	2024	-\$65	-9%	\$723	\$801	2024	-\$78	-10%
Missouri*	St. Louis	\$909	\$1,253	2024	-\$344	-27%	\$1,949	\$1,709	2024	\$239	14%
Montana*	Statewide	\$1,191	\$1,191	2023	\$0	0%	\$1,256	\$1,256	2023	\$0	0%
Nebraska*	Urban Counties	\$1,007	\$1,007	2023	\$0	0%	\$1,261	\$1,261	2023	\$0	0%
Nevada*	Clark County	\$1,137	\$1,173	2022	-\$37	-3%	\$1,375	\$1,334	2022	\$41	3%
New Hampshire*	Statewide	\$1,212	\$1,212	2024	\$0	0%	\$1,491	\$1,491	2024	\$0	0%
New Jersey*	Statewide	\$1,250	\$1,462	2023	-\$212	-15%	\$1,572	\$1,750	2023	-\$178	-10%
New Mexico*	Statewide	\$1,125	\$894	2018	\$231	26%	\$1,925	\$998	2018	\$927	93%
New York*	New York City	\$1,901	\$1,732	2024	\$169	10%	\$2,165	\$2,143	2024	\$22	1%
North Carolina*	Mecklenburg County	\$1,317	\$1,582	2023	-\$265	-17%	\$1,473	\$1,733	2023	-\$260	-15%
North Dakota*	Statewide	\$1,040	\$1,040	2024	\$0	0%	\$1,278	\$1,278	2024	\$0	0%
Ohio*	Franklin County	\$1,256	\$1,277	2024	-\$22	-2%	\$1,405	\$1,587	2024	-\$181	-11%
Oklahoma*	Statewide	\$736	\$909	2024	-\$173	-19%	\$1,150	\$1,126	2024	\$24	2%
Oregon*	Group Area A	\$1,500	\$1,680	2024	-\$180	-11%	\$1,997	\$2,170	2024	-\$173	-8%
Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia	\$1,217	\$1,217	2022	\$0	0%	\$1,375	\$1,375	2022	\$0	0%
Rhode Island*	Statewide	\$1,023	\$1,350	2024	-\$327	-24%	\$1,205	\$1,539	2024	-\$335	-22%
South Carolina*	Urban	\$866	\$827	2020	\$39	5%	\$966	\$922	2020	\$43	5%
South Dakota*	Minnehaha County	\$1,101	\$1,101	2024	\$0	0%	\$1,169	\$1,218	2024	-\$49	-4%
Tennessee*	Top Tier Counties	\$1,083	\$1,104	2023-24	-\$22	-2%	\$1,554	\$1,347	2023-24	\$207	15%
Texas*	Gulf Coast Area	\$879	\$879	2024	\$0	0%	\$1,009	\$979	2024	\$30	3%
Utah*	Statewide	\$875	\$969	2024	-\$94	-10%	\$1,230	\$1,325	2024	-\$95	-7%
Vermont*	Statewide	\$1,901	\$1,516	2024	\$385	25%	\$2,039	\$1,689	2024	\$351	21%
Virginia*	Fairfax County	\$1,516	\$1,559	2018	-\$43	-3%	\$2,035	\$1,819	2018	\$217	12%
Washington*	King County	\$2,003	\$2,200	2024	-\$197	-9%	\$2,375	\$2,555	2024	-\$180	-7%
West Virginia*	Statewide	\$758	\$758	2024	\$0	0%	\$844	\$844	2024	\$0	0%
Wisconsin*	Milwaukee County	\$1,196	\$1,295	2024	-\$99	-8%	\$1,491	\$1,689	2024	-\$197	-12%
Wyoming	Statewide	\$678	\$906	2024	-\$228	-25%	\$746	\$991	2024	-\$245	-25%

# TABLE 4E

## State Tiered Payment Rates for Center Care for a 4-Year-Old in 2025

		Number of quality tier levels (including base rate)	Payment rate for lowest tier	Payment rate for highest tier	Payment rates between lowest and highest tiers	Difference between lowest and highest tiers	Percentage difference between lowest and highest tiers	75th percentile of market rates	Difference between highest rate and 75th percentile	Percentage difference between highest rate and 75th percentile
Alabama	Huntsville	6	\$662	\$732	\$675, \$688, \$701, \$719	\$69	10%	\$844	-\$113	-13%
Alaska	Anchorage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arizona*	Statewide	2	\$909	\$1,364	N/A	\$455	50%	\$1,147	\$217	19%
Arkansas*	Urban Areas	5	\$714	\$1,191	\$888, \$974, \$1,083	\$476	67%	\$714	\$476	67%
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	\$1,096	\$1,401	\$1,135	\$305	28%	\$1,481	-\$80	-5%
Connecticut*	North Central Region	2	\$1,083	\$1,353	N/A	\$271	25%	\$1,516	-\$162	-11%
Delaware*	Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
District of Columbia*	Citywide	3	\$1,364	\$1,446	\$1,392	\$82	6%	\$2,186	-\$740	-34%
Florida*	Miami-Dade County	8	\$606	\$800	\$630, \$649, \$667, \$727, \$757, \$778	\$194	32%	\$1,083	-\$282	-26%
Georgia*	Zone 1	3	\$957	\$1,053	\$1,005	\$96	10%	\$1,190	-\$137	-12%
Hawaii**	Statewide	2	\$795	\$980	N/A	\$185	23%	\$1,525	-\$545	-36%
Idaho	Cluster 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Illinois*	Metropolitan Region	3	\$996	\$1,145	\$1,095	\$149	15%	\$1,407	-\$262	-19%
Indiana*	Marion County	4	\$1,000	\$1,277	\$1,095, \$1,191	\$277	28%	\$1,065	\$212	20%
Iowa*	Statewide	4	\$858	\$1,011	\$891, \$946	\$153	18%	\$946	\$65	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	\$888	\$1,039	See notes	\$152	17%	\$779	\$260	33%
Louisiana*	Statewide	4	\$682	\$839	\$757, \$795	\$157	23%	\$779	\$59	8%
Maine*	Cumberland County	4	\$1,299	\$1,429	\$1,325, \$1,364	\$130	10%	\$1,394	\$35	3%
Maryland*	Region W	4	\$1,134	\$1,429	\$1,248, \$1,350	\$295	26%	\$1,443	-\$14	-1%
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	\$984	\$1,471	\$1,062, \$1,228, \$1,315	\$487	50%	\$1,233	\$238	19%
Minnesota*	Hennepin County	3	\$1,725	\$2,070	\$1,984	\$345	20%	\$1,725	\$345	20%
Mississippi	Metro Counties	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Missouri*	St. Louis	2	\$909	\$1,091	N/A	\$182	20%	\$1,253	-\$162	-13%
Montana*	Statewide	5	\$1,191	\$1,429	\$1,250, \$1,310, \$1,369	\$238	20%	\$1,191	\$238	20%
Nebraska*	Urban Counties	4	\$1,007	\$1,166	\$1,058, \$1,111	\$159	16%	\$1,007	\$159	16%
Nevada*	Clark County	5	\$1,115	\$1,202	\$1,137, \$1,158, \$1,180	\$87	8%	\$1,173	\$28	2%
New Hampshire*	Statewide	3	\$1,212	\$1,334	\$1,273	\$121	10%	\$1,212	\$121	10%
New Jersey*	Statewide	4	\$1,250	\$1,382	\$1,309, \$1,341	\$132	11%	\$1,462	-\$80	-5%
New Mexico*	Statewide	4	\$700	\$1,125	\$800, \$1,000	\$425	61%	\$894	\$231	26%
New York*	New York City	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Carolina*	Mecklenburg County	4	\$477	\$1,317	\$1,276, \$1,285	\$840	176%	\$1,582	-\$265	-17%
North Dakota	Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ohio*	Franklin County	4	\$1,005	\$1,256	\$1,105, \$1,155	\$251	25%	\$1,277	-\$22	-2%
Oklahoma*	Statewide	5	\$476	\$736	\$509, \$602, \$654	\$260	55%	\$909	-\$173	-19%
Oregon*	Group Area A	4	\$1,500	\$1,590	\$1,554, \$1,572	\$90	6%	\$1,680	-\$90	-5%
Pennsylvania*	Philadelphia	4	\$1,217	\$1,417	\$1,238, \$1,345	\$199	16%	\$1,217	\$199	16%
Rhode Island*	Statewide	5	\$1,023	\$1,182	\$1,068, \$1,105, \$1,137	\$159	16%	\$1,350	-\$168	-12%
South Carolina*	Urban	5	\$827	\$1,186	\$866, \$944, \$1,048	\$359	43%	\$827	\$359	43%
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	3	\$901	\$1,083	\$1,035	\$182	20%	\$1,104	-\$22	-2%
Texas*	Gulf Coast Area	4	\$879	\$961	\$923, \$942	\$82	9%	\$879	\$82	9%
Utah*	Statewide	3	\$875	\$1,075	\$1,050	\$200	23%	\$969	\$106	11%
Vermont*	Statewide	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Virginia*	Fairfax County	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Washington*	King County	5	\$1,855	\$2,226	\$1,892, \$2,003, \$2,133	\$371	20%	\$2,200	\$26	1%
West Virginia*	Statewide	3	\$758	\$888	\$823	\$130	17%	\$758	\$130	17%
Wisconsin*	Milwaukee County	3	\$1,196	\$1,459	\$1,328	\$263	22%	\$1,295	\$165	13%
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. In this report, 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 2025 are considered current if set at the 75th percentile of 2023 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.

Changes in payment rates between 2024 and 2025, differences between state payment rates and the 75th percentile, and differentials between the lowest and highest tiered payment rates 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 2025 reflect policies as of February 2025, data in the tables for 2024 reflect policies as of February 2024, and data in the tables for 2001 reflect policies as of June 2001, unless otherwise indicated. Certain changes in policies since February 2025 are noted below.

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**ALABAMA:** The state last increased payment rates as of April 2022.

**ALASKA:** The state last increased payment rates as of January 2023.

**ARIZONA:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base payment rates for care for children ages 1 through 12 from the 75th percentile of 2018 market rates to the 50th percentile of 2022 market rates as of August 2024. The state last increased base payment rates for care for infants under age 1, from the 75th percentile of 2018 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2022 market rates, as of April 2023. Also note that 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) receive a payment rate that is 50 percent above the base rate and certified family child care and in-home providers with a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential receive a payment rate that is 35 percent above the base rate.

**ARKANSAS:** The state began providing higher payment rates for higher-quality care under the state's quality rating and improvement system (which at that time had three star levels) in June 2014, then began requiring all providers serving families receiving child care assistance to have a rating of one star or higher as of January 2016, and now requires all providers serving families receiving child care assistance to have a rating of two stars or higher as of July 2022. The state increased payment rates for two- and three-star providers and added higher payment rate tiers for new quality levels (four-, five-, and six-star levels) in the state's quality rating and improvement system as of July 2023. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased payment rates based on 2023 market rates as of July 2024. The state reduced payment rates and eliminated tiered rates as of November 2025.

**CALIFORNIA:** The state last increased payment rates for licensed care, from at least the 75th percentile of 2016 market rates 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:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base and tiered rates as of October 2024 based on an analysis of the cost of care.

**CONNECTICUT:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased rates for licensed providers by 11 percent as of July 2024. The state increased payment rates for licensed providers by another 11 percent as of July 2025. The state also increased payment rates for license-exempt relative care by 6 percent as of July 2024, by an additional 4.2 percent as of January 2025, and by another 6 percent as of July 2026.

**DELAWARE:** The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased payment rates from the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates to the 50th percentile of 2024 market rates as of July 2024. The state also began using a uniform statewide rate and stopped using tiered rates as of July 2024.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** The city increased payment rates and reduced the number of tiered rate levels from four to three as of October 2023. These rates were still lower than rates temporarily in effect from January to June 2022. Also note that the city sets its payment rates based 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.

**FLORIDA:** As of July 2024, local early learning coalitions are required to adopt state-determined rates; previously, local coalitions determined their payment rates and when to update them. The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased rates for some categories of care in Miami-Dade as of July 2024; prior to that, Miami-Dade had last increased payment rates as of November 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, payment rates for the most common level, which for center care for 1- and 4-year-olds is the Gold Seal level, are compared to the 75th percentile for Gold Seal providers, and in Table 4e, the payment rate for the highest quality level is compared to the 75th percentile for Gold Seal providers. Also note that payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, and locality; in Table 4a, payment rates are reported as at the 28th percentile of market rates because that reflects the average statewide payment rate for the category of care with the most providers (licensed/exempt full-time providers without a Gold Seal serving 5-year-olds).

**GEORGIA:** From May 2021 through September 2024, the state paid providers based on the fees they charged to private-paying parents, regardless of whether these fees were higher or lower than the state's published rates (which were set based on the 2021 market rate survey as of July 2022; the payment rates for 2024 in Table 4c reflect these published rates). During that time, the state calculated a provider's tiered bonus based on the state's published rates, and added that bonus to a payment amount equal to the fee the provider charged private-paying parents. (Providers with a provisional or probationary status in the state's quality rating and improvement system received a 15 percent bonus, one-star providers received a 25 percent bonus, two-star providers received a 35 percent bonus, and three-star providers received a 55 percent bonus in 2024.) The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that as of October 2024, the state stopped paying providers based on the fees charged to private-paying parents and set new payment rates that were higher than the published rates set in 2022. The payment rates in Table 4e also reflect that the state stopped paying tiered rates and began paying quarterly bonuses equal to 5 percent of total payments for two-star providers and 10 percent for three-star providers; although shown in Table 4e as incorporated into the monthly payment rate, these bonuses are paid separately. Zone 1 includes Camden, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale Counties.

**HAWAII:** 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 5 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:** The state last increased payment rates as of October 2021. Also note that Cluster 3 includes Ada, Blaine, Latah, and Teton Counties.

**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 state last increased payment rates for center care in December 2022. The state increased payment rates for home-based child care by 5 percent as of January 2024, by another 5 percent as of July 2024, and by an additional 5 percent as of July 2025.

**INDIANA:** The state reduced payment rates as of October 2025.

**IOWA:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased payment rates from a range of the 60th to 80th percentile of 2020 market rates (depending on the tiered rate level) to a range of the 65th to 75th percentile of 2023 market rates (depending on the tiered rate level), as of July 2024. 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 payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased payment rates for licensed care to at least the 75th percentile of 2024 market rates (if not already at or above that level) as of October 2024.

**KENTUCKY:** 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 4-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 add-on 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. The state last increased base payment rates in October 2021 and last increased the add-on for accredited providers, from \$2 per day to \$5 per day, as of August 2022.

**LOUISIANA:** The state last increased base payment rates as of February 2022. Payment rates are at the 90th percentile of 2023 market rates for center care for infants, at the 85th percentile for family child care for infants, at the 75th percentile for center care for toddlers, at the 80th percentile for family child care for toddlers, and below the 50th percentile for center care and family child care for preschoolers. 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 11 percent above the base rate for a center at the three-star level of the state's quality rating and improvement system (which has five levels), 16.5 percent above the base rate for four-star centers, and 23 percent above the base rate for five-star centers.

**MAINE:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base payment rates from the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates to the 50th percentile of 2024 market rates for centers and 65th percentile for family child care in Cumberland, York, and Sagadahoc counties and to the 70th percentile for centers and 75th percentile for family child care in all other counties as of July 2024.

**MARYLAND:** The state last increased payment rates, from the 60th percentile of 2019 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates, as of May 2022. 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 for centers as of March 2025, retroactive to July 2024. The state also increased payment rates for family child care as of May 2025, retroactive to July 2024.

**MICHIGAN:** The state temporarily increased payment rates by 40 percent from September 2020 through September 2021. As of October 2021, the state set payment rates equal to 30 percent above the rates in place prior to September 2020. The state then implemented an additional temporary increase of 50 percent from October 2021 to April 2022. From April 2022 to September 2023, payment rates were set at levels that were 40 percent higher than the rate level set in October 2021. From October 2022 to September 2023, 5 cents per hour was added onto payment rates for school-age care and care for infants and toddlers. As of September 2023, payment rates were set at 10 percent above the rate level set in October 2021 (30 percent above pre-September 2020 rates). As of September 2024, the state increased rates by 15 percent; the payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect this increase.

**MINNESOTA:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base payment rates from the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2024 market rates as of January 2025.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased rates as of October 2024.

**MISSOURI:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that state increased base payment rates from the 58th percentile of 2022 market rates to the 100th percentile of 2022 market rates for care for infants and toddlers and to the 65th percentile for care for preschool- and school-age children as of July 2024. The state consolidated rates, from 19 regions to five regions, and increased payment rates as of October 2025.

**MONTANA:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that state increased base payment rates from the 75th percentile of 2020 payment rates to the 75th percentile of 2023 rates as of March 2024. The state increased base payment rates again as of March 2025. Although shown in Table 4e as incorporated into the monthly payment rate, bonuses for higher-quality care are paid based on children's attendance; the base payment rate is paid based on enrollment. 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 the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2023 market rates as of July 2023. The state increased base rates to the 75th percentile of 2025 market rates as of July 2025. 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 a rate equivalent to the step-three rate for non-accredited providers if they do not participate in the quality rating and improvement system or are at step one, two, or 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. Urban Counties include Dakota, Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties.

**NEVADA:** The state increased base payment rates for licensed providers (other than Head Start/wrap-around and out-of-school-time providers) from the 55th percentile of 2018 market rates to the 95th percentile of 2018 market rates as of May 2022. Payment rates for family, friend, and neighbor care providers were increased to 75 percent of the base rate for licensed family child care providers as of January 2023, payment rates for Head Start/wrap-around providers were increased as of July 2022, and payment rates for out-of-school-time and out-of-school recreational providers were increased as of July 2023.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that state increased base payment rates from the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2024 market rates as of August 2024.

**NEW JERSEY:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base rates for licensed centers (as well as for registered family child care homes and summer youth camps) by 1.5 percent as of March 2024, and then increased payment rates for center care for toddlers and preschool-age children to the 50th percentile of 2023 market rates as of August 2024. The state increased payment rates by 1 percent for licensed center care and family child care for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children and by 0.5 percent for licensed child care, family child care, and summer youth camps for school-age children as of March 2025. 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 base and tiered payment rates based on a cost estimation model as of August 2023. Also note that the state last conducted a market rate survey in 2018; a more recent market rate survey is not available.

**NEW YORK:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased payment rates from at least the 80th percentile of 2021-2022 market rates to at least the 80th percentile of 2023 market rates as of October 2024. Also note that local social services districts may set payment rates for accredited providers that are up to 15 percent higher than base rates; New York City has not offered this tiered rate since May 2018.

**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 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. The state increased payment rates for three-, four-, and five-star licensed care from the 100th percentile of 2018 market rates to at least the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates as of October 2023.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** The payment rates in Tables 4c and 4d reflect that the state increased payment rates from at least the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates to at least the 75th percentile of 2024 market rates as of July 2024. The state reduced payment rates as of January 2026.

**OHIO:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base payment rates from the 35th percentile of 2022 market rates to the 50th percentile of 2022 market rates as of July 2024. The state also revised its tiered rates structure as of July 2024. Under the previous tiered rates structure, providers participating in Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) received a higher rate than the base rate and then an additional 5 percent if at the one-star level of SUTQ, 18 percent if at the two-star level, 21 percent if at the three-star level, 29 percent if at the four-star level, and 35 percent if at the five-star level. Under the state's new quality rating and improvement system, providers receive 10 percent above the base rate if at the bronze level, 15 percent if at the silver level, and 25 percent if at the gold level. The state increased base payment rates to the 50th percentile of 2024 market rates as of November 2025.

**OKLAHOMA:** Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child and type of care. As of August 2018, the state increased payment rates for two- and three-star providers caring for children birth through age 3 to the 65th percentile of 2017 market rates and increased payment rates for all other categories of care, except for one-star centers, by 7 percent. As of April 2020, payment rates for one-star centers and family child care homes were increased to the 50th percentile of 2017 market rates; payment rates for care for children birth through age 3 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. As of January 2023, the state added a five-star level to its quality rating and improvement system; the state currently has one-star, two-star, three-star, four-star, and five-star levels. (The one-star level is the basic licensing level and the base payment rate level.) Prior to January 2023, the state's quality rating and improvement system had four levels: one-star, one-star plus, two-star, and three-star. 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.

**OREGON:** The state increased base payment rates as of January 2026. Prior to that, the state had last increased base payment rates as of January 2024. Also note that Group Area A includes the Ashland, Bend, Corvallis, Eugene, Monmouth, Portland, and Springfield areas.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base payment rates from the 60th percentile of 2022 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2022 market rates as of January 2025.

**RHODE ISLAND:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased rates by 5 percent for centers (as well as 2.5 percent for family child care) as of July 2024. The state increased payment rates again as of July 2025.

**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 and tiered payment 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 2022 market rates to at or near the 75th percentile of 2024 market rates as of July 2024.

**TENNESSEE:** Payment rates vary as a percentile of market rates by the age of the child, type of care, and county group. The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that, as of October 2024, the state increased base rates, discontinued a temporary 5 percent quality rating and improvement transition bonus had been in effect since October 2023 (shown as incorporated into the 2024 rates in the Table 4c), and reduced the number of tiered payment rate levels from four to three. A 15 percent differential for infant and toddler care that went into effect in October 2023 is shown as incorporated into the rates in Tables 4c and 4d; this differential remains in effect for infant care, but was discontinued for toddler care as of October 2025. Also note that Top Tier Counties are those with the 20 highest average populations in 2022 and/or 20 highest per capita incomes 2022; these counties include: Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, 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 the state increased base payment rates from at least the 75th percentile of 2023 market rates to at least the 75th percentile of 2024 market rates as of October 2024. (In setting payment rates in October 2024, the state took into account cost modeling analyses from 2023 and 2024 as well.) Also note that, since October 2022, the state has set tiered rates at a minimum of 5 percent above the base rate for providers at the two-star level of the state's quality rating and improvement system, 7 percent above the base rate for three-star providers, and 9 percent above the base rate for four-star providers. The state increased base payment rates as of October 2025 based on 2025 market rates and cost modeling analyses from 2024 and 2025.

**UTAH:** The payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that, as of October 2024, the state increased base payment rates from the 90th percentile of 2021 market rates for care for children under age 2 and the 80th percentile of 2021 market rates for children ages 2 and older to the 60th percentile of 2024 market rates for children under age 6 and the 50th percentile of 2024 market rates for children ages 6 and older. Also note that since October 2019, the state has paid 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. (In addition, as of August 2022, licensed family child care providers rated as high quality receive an additional payment of \$100 per month per child receiving assistance and licensed family child care providers rated as high quality plus receive an additional payment of \$125 per month per child receiving assistance). 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 state began paying all providers at the rate previously paid to providers with a five-star rating (the highest quality level) under the state's quality rating and improvement system as of July 2023, and then increased payment rates by 35 percent as of December 2023. The state increased payment rates for registered family child care providers by 50 percent of the difference between rates for registered family child care providers and rates for licensed programs as of June 2024. The state increased payment rates for care for infants and toddlers by 5 percent as of July 2025.

**VIRGINIA:** The state increased payment rates based on a cost estimation model as of October 2022. (If the rates generated by the model would have resulted in a decrease, rates were not changed.) The state added a payment rate category for care for 2-year-olds and adjusted payment rates for family child care providers as of August 2023. Also note that as of September 30, 2024, the state discontinued the state's tiered reimbursement pilot, which had paid bonuses of 7 percent above the base rate to providers at levels four and five of the quality rating and improvement system in effect at that time. As of October 1, 2024, participating providers transitioned to the state's new quality rating and improvement system, Virginia Quality Birth-to-5 (VQB5); there are no tiered rate bonuses in effect under this new system.

**WASHINGTON:** The state increased most base payment rates for licensed providers to the 85th percentile of 2021 market rates as of July 2023. The state increased base payment rates for licensed family child care to the 85th percentile of 2024 market rates as of July 2025 and plans to increase base payment rates for licensed centers to the 85th percentile of 2024 market rates as of July 2026. The state increased payment rates for license-exempt family child care providers from \$3.00 per hour to \$3.85 per hour as of July 2023, \$4.00 per hour as of July 2024, and \$4.50 per hour in July 2025. Also note that providers serving children ages birth to 5 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 payment rates in Tables 4c, 4d, and 4e reflect that the state increased base payment rates from at least at the 75th percentile of 2021 market rates to the 75th percentile of 2024 market rates as of October 2024. 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 last increased base payment rates as of January 2022. Also note that Table 4e reflects that after quality add-ons (referred to as "quality adjustments") were temporarily increased from 13 percent above base rates for four-star providers and 26 percent above base rates for five-star providers in February 2024, to 15 percent above base rates for four-star providers and 30 percent above base rates for five-star providers as of March 2024, the add-ons were reduced to 11 percent above base rates for four-star providers and 22 percent above base rates for five-star providers as of July 2024. (Providers with one-, two-, and three-star ratings in the state's quality rating and improvement system receive the base rate with no quality adjustment.)

**WYOMING:** The state increased payment rates from the 75th percentile of 2017 market rates to the 50th percentile of 2022 market rates (if not already at or above that level) as of October 2023.

# TABLE 5

## Eligibility for Child Care Assistance While a Parent Searches for a Job in 2024 and 2025

	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	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Alabama	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Alaska*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Arizona*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Arkansas*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
California*	Until end of 24-month eligibility period	Until end of 24-month eligibility period	24 months	24 months
Colorado*	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks	13 weeks
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	12 months	Not eligible
Florida*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Georgia*	13 weeks	13 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Hawai'i*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Idaho*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Illinois*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	90 days
Indiana*	16 weeks	16 weeks	53 weeks	53 weeks
Iowa*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Kansas*	3 months	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	Not eligible	Not eligible
Maine*	12 weeks	12 weeks	Not eligible	Not eligible
Maryland*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Massachusetts*	26 weeks	26 weeks	26 weeks	26 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*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Missouri*	90 days	90 days	90 days	90 days
Montana*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Nebraska*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
Nevada*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
New Hampshire*	92 days	92 days	92 days	92 days
New Jersey*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
New Mexico*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
New York*	3 months	3 months	6 months	6 months
North Carolina*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
North Dakota*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
Ohio*	3 months	3 months	30 days	30 days
Oklahoma	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	3 months	3 months
Oregon*	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	Until end of 12-month eligibility period	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	3 months	Not eligible
South Carolina*	3 months	3 months	Not eligible	Not eligible
South Dakota*	90 days	90 days	Not eligible	Not eligible
Tennessee*	90 days past 12-month eligibility period	90 days past 12-month eligibility period	Not eligible	Not eligible
Texas*	3 months	3 months	3 months	3 months
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	12 months	12 months
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	3 months	3 months	3 months

## 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 2025 reflect policies as of February 2025, and data in the table for 2024 reflect policies as of February 2024. Certain changes in policies since February 2025 are noted below.

**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 (unless they are receiving TANF), 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 full calendar 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 or Grant Diversion (one-time lump-sum payment) benefits and participating in the Jobs Program.

**ARKANSAS:** 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. From October 2024 to February 2025, the state temporarily allowed parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days; before and after that period, parents could only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they were receiving TANF or experiencing homelessness.

**CALIFORNIA:** Parents can initially qualify or recertify for child care assistance while searching for a job 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 for child care assistance 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. Counties must allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for a minimum of 13 weeks (and may allow a longer period of time); any day in a week that a parent uses child care assistance while searching for a job is considered one week used toward the time limit.

**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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. 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 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 or are homeless.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months after a temporary change in situation as well as another 3 months after a non-temporary change in situation, or until the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance, whichever comes first. As of October 2024, parents can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are engaged in a job search or work experience program through the Department of Employment Services or Department of Human Services or are receiving unemployment insurance benefits; prior to that, parents could only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if it was a structured job search through an approved agency.

**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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. Prior to July 2024, parents could qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they were experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, or a natural disaster; as of July 2024, families in these circumstances cannot qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

**HAWAII:** 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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first.

**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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF.

**ILLINOIS:** Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the last day of the calendar month after the 90th day following a permanent job loss. Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for that full time period for job search even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that time period. Parents could qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 90 days under a temporary policy that was in effect from October 2021 through June 2024. As of July 2024, the state returned to its standard policy, under which 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 16 weeks, beginning one day after their loss of employment. Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 16 weeks even if they reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of that 16-week period. Prior to May 2025, parents could qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if it was their first time receiving child care assistance; as of May 2025, parents cannot qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

**IOWA:** Parents who reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of the 3-month period allowed to search for a job can reapply to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months.

**KANSAS:** 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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. 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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. Parents are eligible for multiple job search periods during their eligibility period for child care assistance (as long as the job search periods are not consecutive).

**LOUISIANA:** Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness.

**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 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.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** The state temporarily extended the amount of time parents could receive child care assistance while searching for a job, from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, from July 2020 until April 2025. 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. Parents that did not have a job at the end of their eligibility period could qualify for 26 weeks of child care assistance at their reauthorization. Parents were eligible for an unlimited number of job search periods during their eligibility period for child care assistance (as long as the job search periods were not consecutive). As of April 2025, the state reverted to its previous policy, limiting the amount of time parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job to 12 weeks; parents can receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to two 12-week periods within a 12-month eligibility period.

**MICHIGAN:** Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF and searching for a job is included in the parent's self-sufficiency plan for the work participation program.

**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 for child care assistance, 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 90 days or until the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance, whichever comes first. 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.

**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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness.

**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. 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 experiencing homelessness, participating in a workforce program such as SNAP Employment and Training or the Employment First Program through TANF, or are required to search for a job as a condition of receiving unemployment benefits.

**NEVADA:** 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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. 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.

**NEW JERSEY:** Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF or experiencing homelessness.

**NEW YORK:** 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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first (although the family could reapply for child care assistance at the end of the eligibility period). Local districts must allow parents to qualify to receive child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 6 months if the district has funds available. The parent can only receive assistance to cover child care during the portion of the day directly related to job search activities.

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

**NORTH DAKOTA:** 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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first.

**OHIO:** 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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. Parents applying for child care assistance can receive assistance while searching for a job for up to 30 days during which their application is processed. Parents experiencing homelessness can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job for a full 12-month eligibility period, parents receiving TANF can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job as long as job search is their approved activity, and caretakers receiving protective child care can qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job as long as job search is a part of their case plan.

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

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF or experiencing homelessness. 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 homeless or 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:** As of July 2024, parents can qualify or recertify for child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months if they are participating in an active job search for at least 20 hours per week. Prior to that, parents could only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they were entering an approved education or training program or receiving TANF. Also prior to July 2024, parents receiving child care assistance who lost a job near the end of their eligibility period could continue receiving child care assistance for a 3-month period that would extend beyond the end of the eligibility period.

**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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are experiencing homelessness, are dual language learners, are receiving assistance through TANF-related funding sources, or have children enrolled in Head Start.

**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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first. Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if they are receiving TANF.

**TENNESSEE:** Parents who do not meet the work activity requirement at recertification can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for an additional 90 days. 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. In addition, under a pilot in effect from February 2025 to September 2025, families participating in the Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program (a federal program providing intensive reemployment services to eligible individuals receiving unemployment benefits) could qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

**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 for child care assistance, whichever comes first; however, if at the time of eligibility redetermination, a family is experiencing a temporary status change in work, education, or job training, the local board has the option to extend the eligibility period on a case-by-case basis to the date the parent is expected to return to work, school, or training.

**UTAH:** Parents can only qualify for the primary child care assistance program while searching for a job if the family is homeless and has submitted a referral from a recognized homeless agency or if the family has applied for TANF and participates in an approved employment plan. However, under the separate Kids-In-Care Program, parents can qualify for 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. Parents are eligible for multiple job search periods during their eligibility period for child care assistance (as long as the job search periods are not consecutive).

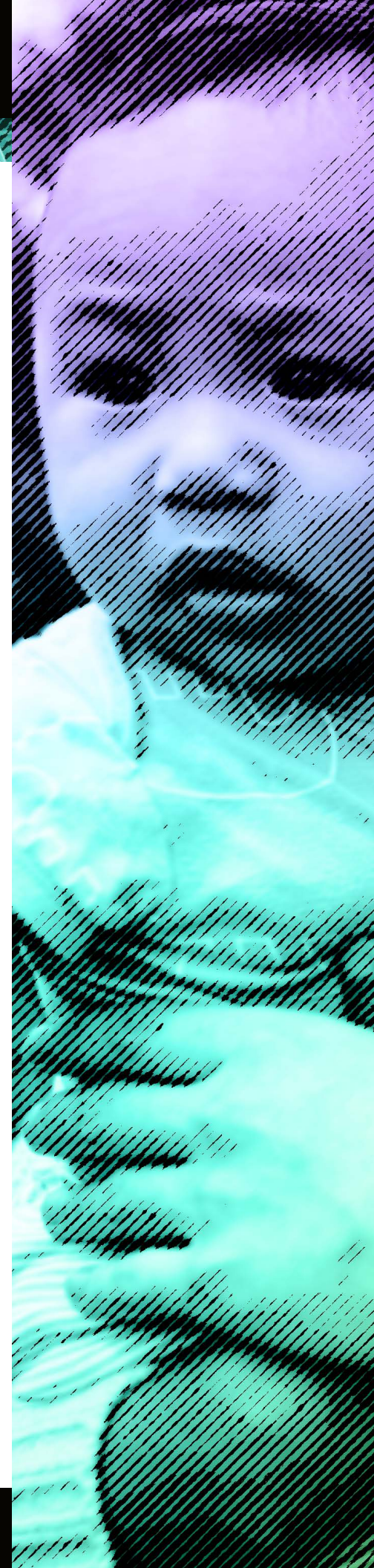
**VIRGINIA:** As of July 2025, the state began limiting the amount of time parents can continue receiving or qualify to receive child care assistance while searching for a job to 90 days once every 12 months.

**WASHINGTON:** Parents can only qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job if the family is receiving TANF and job search is an approved activity, is experiencing homelessness, is receiving child protective, child welfare, or family assessment response services, or has a referral from a specialty or therapeutic court.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** 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.

**WISCONSIN:** Parents can continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 3 months following the month of the job loss or until the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance, 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:** If parents reach the end of their eligibility period for child care assistance before the end of their 3-month period for job search, they can reapply for child care assistance and receive up to 3 months of child care assistance while searching for a job. Parents who initially qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job can receive assistance for up to 3 months, for up to 20 hours per week.







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