State Child Care Assistance Policies: South Dakota
October 2012

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2012, a family of three in South Dakota could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $33,788 (177 percent of poverty, 59 percent of state median income).¹

- **Waiting list:** South Dakota had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2012.

- **Parent copayments:** In 2012, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty ($19,090 a year) receiving child care assistance in South Dakota had no copayment. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty ($28,635 a year) receiving child care assistance paid $344 per month, or 14 percent of its income, in copayments.²

- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2012, South Dakota’s reimbursement rates for child care providers serving families receiving child care assistance were below the federally recommended level—the 75th percentile of current market rates, which is the level designed to give families access to 75 percent of the providers in their community—as of February 2012.³

- South Dakota’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Minnehaha County/Sioux Falls was $614, which was $29 (5 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

- South Dakota’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Minnehaha County/Sioux Falls was $722, which was $10 (1 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2012, South Dakota did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2012, South Dakota allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job.⁴ However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.


1 This income limit takes into account that the state disregards 4 percent of earned income in determining eligibility. The stated income limit, in policy, was $32,436 in 2012. As of March 2012, the stated income limit was increased to $33,408 (175 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2012 federal poverty level.

2 These copayments were calculated based on adjusted income, taking into account the earned income disregard.

3 Reimbursement rates were increased to the 75th percentile of 2010-2011 market rates as of July 1, 2012.

4 Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it while searching for a job for up to 30 days from the last date of employment.