State Child Care Assistance Policies: Arizona  
December 2013

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Arizona could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $31,512 (161 percent of poverty, 57 percent of state median income).  

- **Waiting list:** Arizona had 6,712 children on a waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2013.  

- **Parent copayments:** In 2013, a family of three with an income at 100 percent of poverty ($19,530 a year) receiving child care assistance in Arizona paid $65 per month, or 4 percent of its income, in copayments. A family of three with an income at 150 percent of poverty ($29,295 a year) receiving child care assistance paid $152 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.  

- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Arizona’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.  

  - Arizona’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) was $515, which was $372 (42 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.  

  - Arizona’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) was $576, which was $507 (47 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.  

- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Arizona paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.  

  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) at the highest quality tier was 10 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.  

  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Maricopa County (Phoenix) at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.  

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Arizona allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 60 days while searching for a job. However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.