State Child Care Assistance Policies: Connecticut
December 2013

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Connecticut could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $42,829 (219 percent of poverty, 50 percent of state median income). ¹

- **Waiting list:** Connecticut had no 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 Connecticut 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 $146 per month, or 6 percent of its income, in copayments.

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

  - Connecticut’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region was $650,² which was $416 (39 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

  - Connecticut’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in the North Central Region was $818,³ which was $481 (37 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

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

  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region at the highest quality tier was 5 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.

  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in the North Central Region at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Connecticut allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job until the end of the month following the month of a job loss.⁴ The state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

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¹ In February 2013, families already receiving assistance could continue doing so until their income reached $64,243. As of July 2013, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $43,333 (50 percent of state median income), and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $64,999 (75 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

² The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.

³ This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.

⁴ Parents receiving child care assistance can continue to receive it until the end of the month following the month of a job loss if they are actively seeking another job and payment is needed to prevent the loss of a slot in a school-based or licensed child care program and the child continues to attend care.