State Child Care Assistance Policies: Georgia
December 2013

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Georgia could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $28,160 (144 percent of poverty, 50 percent of state median income).

- **Waiting list:** Georgia had no waiting list for child care assistance as of February 2013.1

- **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 Georgia paid $143 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.

- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Georgia’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.
  - Georgia’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Zone 1 was $493, which was $235 (32 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.2
  - Georgia’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Zone 1 was $602, which was $264 (31 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In February 2013, Georgia did not pay higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.3

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Georgia allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 8 weeks while searching for a job.4 However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

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**Source:** Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, Pivot Point: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2013 (Washington, DC: National Women’s Law Center, 2013). These data reflect policies as of February 2013, unless otherwise indicated.

1 The state froze intake as of May 2011 for all families other than priority groups, which include minor parents enrolled full time in school, grandparents over the age of 60 or receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) who are raising children under five, child protective services cases, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) applicants and recipients, families transitioning from TANF, children with siblings receiving child care assistance, and children with special needs. The state resumed serving families not in priority groups (while continuing to serve priority groups) in March 2012.

2 Zone 1 includes Camden, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale Counties.

3 The state began providing higher reimbursement rates to higher-quality providers as of July 1, 2013; one-star programs receive a 2 percent bonus, two-star programs receive a 5 percent bonus, and three-star programs receive a 10 percent bonus.

4 Parents receiving child care assistance who lose their jobs due to company closings or layoffs can continue to receive child care assistance for up to 8 weeks per occurrence. After the 8-week time period, a parent's case may be suspended for up to 12 weeks. Parents must be receiving state unemployment benefits in order to continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job.