NEBRASKA STATE CHILD CARE FACT SHEET

State Child Care Assistance Policies: Nebraska
December 2013

• **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Nebraska could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $22,908 (117 percent of poverty, 38 percent of state median income).¹

• **Waiting list:** Nebraska 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 Nebraska paid $63 per month, or 4 percent of its income, in copayments.²

• **Reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Nebraska’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.
  
  • Nebraska’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties³ was $671, ⁴ which was $173 (20 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.⁵
  
  • Nebraska’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in urban counties was $812,⁶ which was $97 (11 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

• **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Nebraska paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  
  • The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties 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 urban counties at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.

• **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Nebraska allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 2 months.

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¹ For families transitioning from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the income limit was $35,316 in February 2013. As of July 2013, the income limit was increased to $36,132 (185 percent of poverty) for families transitioning from TANF and to $23,435 (120 percent of poverty) for all other families to adjust for the 2013 federal poverty level.

² A family with an income at 150 percent of poverty would be eligible if the family were transitioning from TANF. This family’s copayment would have been $190 per month in 2013.

³ The urban counties include Lancaster, Dakota, Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

⁴ The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.

⁵ The state increased its reimbursement rates from the 50th percentile of 2011 market rates to the 60th percentile of 2013 market rates as of July 2013. For example, the monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in urban counties increased from $671 to $730.

⁶ This is the base (lowest) rate, which is the most common rate level.