State Child Care Assistance Policies: Nevada

December 2013

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Nevada could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $43,596 (223 percent of poverty, 75 percent of state median income).\(^1\)

- **Waiting list:** Nevada had 1,748 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 Nevada paid $50 per month, or 3 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 $199 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.\(^2\)

- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Nevada'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.

  - Nevada's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Clark County was $498,\(^3\) which was $262 (34 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  
  - Nevada's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Clark County was $606,\(^4\) which was $254 (30 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Nevada paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.\(^5\)

  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Clark County at the highest quality tier was 12 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Clark County at the highest quality tier was still below the 75th percentile of current market rates.

- **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Nevada allowed parents to qualify for or continue receiving child care assistance while searching for a job for up to 2 weeks in a 12-month calendar year.\(^6\)

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As of October 2013, the income limit was expected to increase to $43,764 (75 percent of state median income) to adjust for the updated state median income estimate.

The state determines copayments based on the cost of care; these copayments were calculated assuming that the family was purchasing care at the state's maximum reimbursement rate for licensed, non-accredited center care for a four-year-old.

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

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The state began implementing its Silver Stars quality rating and improvement system as of July 2012 for Clark County and July 2013 for the rest of the state. The system has five quality levels, but only four separate reimbursement rate levels (the lowest two levels both receive the same base rate). Previously, the state had two separate rate levels—the base rate and a rate for accredited centers that was 15 percent above the base rate. The state no longer has a separate rate for accredited centers.

If child care assistance is provided for at least one day, the entire week is counted toward this limit. Child care assistance is only provided while a parent searches for a job for a child who is not attending school.