State Child Care Assistance Policies: Ohio

December 2013

• **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Ohio could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $23,172 (119 percent of poverty, 38 percent of state median income).\(^1\)

• **Waiting list:** Ohio 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 Ohio paid $125 per month, or 8 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 $216 per month, or 9 percent of its income, in copayments.

• **Reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Ohio'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.

  • Ohio's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was $569,\(^2\) which was $172 (23 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

  • Ohio's monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) was $713,\(^3\) which was $253 (26 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

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

  • The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) at the highest quality tier was 19 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.

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

• **Eligibility for parents searching for a job:** In 2013, Ohio allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job.\(^4\) However, the state did not allow parent 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 $37,080. As of June 2013, the income limit to qualify for assistance was increased to $24,420 (125 percent of poverty) and the exit eligibility limit was increased to $39,072 (200 percent of poverty) to adjust for the 2013 federal poverty level.

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 while searching for a job for up to 30 days if they are scheduled to return to work, school, or training within that timeframe. In addition, parents who lose their job can continue to receive child care assistance for a 15-day prior notice period; if the parent starts another approved activity within that period, the parent can remain eligible.