State Child Care Assistance Policies: Oklahoma
December 2013

- **Income eligibility limit:** In 2013, a family of three in Oklahoma could qualify for child care assistance with an annual income up to $35,100 (180 percent of poverty, 67 percent of state median income).\(^1\)

- **Waiting list:** Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma paid $132 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 $189 per month, or 8 percent of its income, in copayments.

- **Reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Oklahoma'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.
  - Oklahoma’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Enhanced Area Counties\(^2\) was $438,\(^3\) which was $146 (25 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.
  - Oklahoma’s monthly reimbursement rate for center care for a one-year-old in Enhanced Area Counties was $601,\(^4\) which was $122 (17 percent) below the 75th percentile of current market rates for this type of care.

- **Tiered reimbursement rates:** In 2013, Oklahoma paid higher reimbursement rates for higher-quality care.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Enhanced Area Counties at the highest quality tier was 67 percent higher than the rate at the lowest quality tier.
  - The reimbursement rate for center care for a four-year-old in Enhanced Area 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, Oklahoma allowed parents to continue receiving child care assistance for up to 30 days while searching for a job.\(^5\) However, the state did not allow parents to qualify for child care assistance while searching for a job.

---


1 The income limit depends on how many children are in child care. The income limit shown here assumes that the family was receiving assistance for two children in care. The income limit for a family of three receiving assistance for only one child in care was $29,100 in 2013.
2 Enhanced Area Rates apply to 19 out of 77 counties in the state (Caddo, Canadian, Cherokee, Cleveland, Comanche, Creek, Garfield, Kay, Logan, McCurtain, Oklahoma, Ottawa, Payne, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Tulsa, Wagoner, Washington, and Woods).
3 The state has higher rates for higher-quality care; this is the most common rate level (the level representing the greatest number of providers).
4 This is the most common rate level.
5 Parents can continue to receive child care assistance for up to 30 calendar days while searching for a job if they had been receiving child care assistance for at least 30 days prior to losing a job or completing an education program. Parents may be approved to receive child care assistance while searching for a job no more than twice per calendar year, and must have been employed or going to school for at least 90 calendar days between approval periods.