

## Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap 2024

### Child Care Subsidies

State	State Context and Policy Progress
Alabama	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No            Income eligibility in Alabama is set at 60% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 173% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> No            Families in Alabama pay copayments of up to 10% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No            Alabama reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$130 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>            For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$65.9 million for child care and family services, an \$8 million increase from the previous fiscal year.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators enacted H.B. 358, which will create a tax credit for employers who provide child care benefits to employees, a facilities tax credit for child care providers, and a grant for non-profit child care providers to build or improve their programs. The bill is effective January 2025 with a 3 year sunset. Legislators did not introduce any bills directly related to child care subsidies.</p>
Alaska	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No            Income eligibility in Alaska is set at 79% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 230% of the federal poverty level. The state enacted legislation to increase the income eligibility limit to 105% of the SMI beginning in January 2025.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> No            Families in Alaska pay copayments of up to 9% of their income. The state enacted legislation to limit copayments to 7% of family income beginning in January 2025.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No            Alaska reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$365 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>            In the last year, legislators enacted S.B. 189, which increases the income eligibility limit for child care assistance up to 105% of the SMI, limits copayments to 7% of family income, and gives permission to set reimbursement rates based on a cost estimation model. Additionally, the bill provides tax incentives for employers that donate to child care facilities. The bill is effective January 2025.</p>

Arizona	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No Income eligibility in Arizona is set at 55% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 165% of the federal poverty level (FPL).</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in Arizona pay copayments of up to 4% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No Arizona reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$164 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$12 million in new funding from the general fund for child care subsidies.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators introduced H.B. 2850, which would have increased the income eligibility limit for child care assistance up to 300% of the FPL (100% of the SMI). The bill did not pass this session.</p>
Arkansas	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> Yes Income eligibility in Arkansas is set at 93% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 239% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in Arkansas pay copayments of up to 2% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> Yes Arkansas reimburses all providers above the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 11%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators did not introduce any bills related to child care assistance.</p>

California	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? Yes</b> Income eligibility in California is set at 96% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 347% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b> Families in California pay copayments of up to 1% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b> California reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2021 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$64 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators enacted a budget which funds approximately 11,000 new child care subsidy slots.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators introduced S.B. 1307, which would have made child care workers categorically eligible for child care subsidies. As of October 1, 2024, this bill had not passed.</p>
Colorado	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Colorado is set at 58% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 225% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b> Families in Colorado pay copayments of up to 11% of their income. The state enacted legislation to limit copayments to 7% of family income, by August 2026.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b> In 2024, Colorado started reimbursing providers based on a cost estimation model. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 8%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators enacted H.B. 1223, which streamlines child care assistance applications and caps copayments at 7% of a family's income. The bill also requires that providers receive advance payments and payment based on enrollment, allows employers to pay copayments on behalf of employees, expands eligible activities, and creates a pilot program for unlicensed providers to seek license-exempt status and start accepting child care assistance.</p> <p>In addition to legislation directly affecting the child care assistance system, legislators also enacted two other bills to support the state's child care system more broadly. Legislators enacted H.B. 1312, which will create a \$1,200 annual, refundable tax credit for care workers, including child care providers and Family, Friend, and Neighbor providers, beginning in tax year 2025. Legislators also enacted H.B. 1237, which creates programs to provide technical support, regulatory incentives, and funding for construction and renovation of child care facilities, effective August 2024.</p>

<p>Connecticut</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in Connecticut is set at 66% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 285% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b>  Families in Connecticut pay copayments of up to 10% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Connecticut reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. However, since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 11%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators enacted S.B. 5, which expands subsidy eligibility to parents or guardians of children enrolled in Medicaid and adds them to the priority intake and eligibility list, effective July 2024. Legislators also enacted H.B. 5002, which creates a wage supplement program for child care providers, giving them one-time payments of at least \$1,800 each for Fiscal Year 2025. The bill also creates a tri-share pilot program in New London county in which participating employers, employees, and the state share child care costs equally, effective July 2024.</p>
<p>Delaware</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in Delaware is set at 49% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 178% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b>  Delaware began waiving copayments for all families in 2024.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Delaware reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 4%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$161 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators allocated an additional \$10.4 million to support the child care assistance program for Fiscal Year 2025. These funds include a reimbursement rate increase for providers up to the 50th percentile of the 2024 market rate survey and an increase in the income eligibility limit to 200% of the federal poverty level. These changes were effective July 2024.</p>

<p>District of Columbia</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in the District of Columbia is set at 56% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 289% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b>  Families in the District of Columbia pay copayments of up to 10% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b>  The District of Columbia reimburses providers based on a cost estimation model.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  For Fiscal Year 2025, the District of Columbia Council reduced the child care subsidy allocation by \$10 million and the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund, which supports compensation for early educators, by \$17 million. In the last year, councilmembers did not introduce any bills related to child care subsidies.</p>
<p>Florida</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in Florida is set at 52% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 150% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b>  Families in Florida pay copayments of up to 8% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Florida reimburses infant care and home-based toddler care above the 75th percentile of the state's 2022-2023 market rate survey, whereas center-based toddler care is reimbursed below this percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated an additional \$46.4 million from the general fund to support provider reimbursements. Reimbursement rates in the state are now based on a new funding formula, which led to increased rates in some counties.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators enacted H.B. 1267, which creates the School Readiness Plus Program to provide child care assistance to families whose incomes surpass the child care assistance program limit during the redetermination process, but are under 100% of the SMI. The bill included an allocation of \$23 million for Fiscal Year 2025 and was effective July 2024.</p> <p>Legislators also enacted H.B. 7073, which provides tax credits to employers who either operate a child care program or cover the cost of child care for their employees, effective July 2024. Additionally, legislators introduced bills to provide universal child care vouchers, increase the income eligibility limit for child care assistance, and limit copayments to 7% of a family's income. The bills did not pass this session.</p>

<p>Georgia</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Georgia is set at 33% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 103% of the federal poverty level—the lowest income eligibility limit in the country.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b> Families in Georgia pay copayments of up to 7% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b> Georgia reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 58%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$238 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$72 million from the state general fund to increase provider reimbursement rates to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the market rate survey. This funding represents an increase of \$9.3 million over the previous year.</p> <p>Legislators adopted S.R. 471, which creates a Senate study committee on access to affordable child care, charged with releasing a report with recommendations for the legislature by December 2024.</p> <p>Legislators introduced S.R. 538, which proposed a constitutional amendment to authorize sports betting and gambling, dedicating a portion of the funds to child care. Legislators also introduced H.R. 1230, which proposed a constitutional amendment to create the Children First Trust Fund with a \$2 billion investment from the shortfalls fund. Neither of these resolutions, which would have required ballot approval, were adopted.</p>
<p>Hawaii</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Hawaii is set at 70% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 237% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b> Families in Hawaii pay copayments of up to 9% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b> Hawaii reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$527 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators introduced H.B. 2535, which would have established a pilot program for the state to contract directly with child care providers for infant and toddler slots. The bill did not pass this session.</p>

<p>Idaho</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No Income eligibility in Idaho is set at 62% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 175% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in Idaho pay copayments of up to 4% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No Idaho reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$278 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators enacted H.B. 543, which stipulates that a homeowner's association may not prohibit the operation of a family child care home, effective July 2024. Legislators did not introduce any bills related to the state's child care assistance program.</p>
<p>Illinois</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No Income eligibility in Illinois is set at 59% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 217% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in Illinois pay copayments of up to 7% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No Illinois reimburses home-based care for infants and toddlers above the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey, whereas center-based care for infants and toddlers is reimbursed below this percentile. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$335 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$158.5 million for Smart Start Workforce Grants, a 27% increase from the previous year. These grants provide wage supplements for child care and cover operational costs for child care programs serving children enrolled in child care assistance.</p> <p>Legislators enacted S.B. 1, which consolidated early childhood services under one newly created agency, the Department of Early Childhood, beginning in July 2024. The Department of Early Childhood centralizes the administration of several programs, including child care, child care licensing, and preschool, among others. The FY2025 budget included \$14.2 million in operational funds for the newly created department.</p> <p>Legislators also introduced bills to reduce family copayments and increase the income eligibility limit for child care assistance. The bills did not pass this session.</p>

<p>Indiana</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in Indiana is set at 48% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 150% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b>  Families in Indiana pay copayments of up to 6% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Indiana reimburses center-based care for infants and toddlers above the 75th percentile of the state's 2018 market rate survey, whereas home-based care for infants and toddlers is reimbursed below this percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators enacted S.B. 2, which extends eligibility for child care assistance to child care employees with incomes under 85% of the SMI. This bill became effective upon passage. Legislators also introduced S.B. 224 to increase child care assistance eligibility to 185% of the FPL (60% of the SMI). The bill did not pass this session.</p>
<p>Iowa</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in Iowa is set at 47% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 160% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b>  Families in Iowa pay copayments of up to 8% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b>  Iowa reimburses all providers at the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 11%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators enacted H.F. 2658, which extends categorical eligibility for child care assistance to child care workers through June 2025 and increases reimbursement rates to align with the latest market rate survey, effective July 2024. Legislators also introduced S.F. 2104, which would have increased reimbursement rates to the 85th percentile of the most recent market rate survey. The bill did not pass this session.</p>



<p>Kansas</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? Yes</b>  Income eligibility in Kansas is set at 85% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 272% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b>  Families in Kansas pay copayments of up to 3% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Kansas reimburses toddler care and center-based care for infants at or above the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey, whereas home-based infant care is reimbursed below this percentile. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 38%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators introduced bills which would have removed a 20-hour work requirement for child care assistance receipt and allowed single parents to access child care assistance without receiving child support. Currently, a custodial parent must prove child support compliance or sue the non-custodial parent for child support before being eligible for child care subsidies. The bills did not pass this session.</p>
<p>Kentucky</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? Yes</b>  Income eligibility in Kentucky is set at 85% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 242% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b>  Families in Kentucky pay copayments of up to 12% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Kentucky only reports 80th percentiles as part of their 2024 market rate survey and providers are reimbursed below this percentile. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$167 per month to meet the 80th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated an additional \$21 million from the state general fund to maintain reimbursement rates at the current level, a cost previously funded through federal pandemic relief funds. Additionally, legislators allocated \$12.8 million from the state general fund to provide child care assistance to child care providers regardless of their income, to support families transitioning out of child care assistance, to cover the cost of background checks for new providers, and to offer start-up funds for new types of child care programs.</p> <p>Legislators also introduced several bills which would have increased income eligibility for child care assistance, provided grants to child care programs, made high demand occupations categorically eligible for child care assistance, authorized early learning taxing districts, and prohibited providers from charging families additional fees beyond child care copayments. The bills did not pass this session.</p>

Louisiana	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> Yes Income eligibility in Louisiana is set at 85% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 240% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> No Families in Louisiana pay copayments of up to 9% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> Yes Louisiana reimburses all providers at or above the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators did not introduce any bills related to child care assistance.</p>
Maine	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> Yes Income eligibility in Maine is set at 125% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 426% of the federal poverty level. In the last year, the state increased its income eligibility limit from 85% of the SMI.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> No Families in Maine pay copayments of up to 10% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No Maine reimburses home-based care for infants and toddlers at the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey, whereas center-based care for infants and toddlers is reimbursed below this percentile. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 28%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$43 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$11.8 million in one-time funds for child care stability grants. These grants can be used to offer workforce stipends and provide financial relief to families by clearing tuition debt, covering family fees, and preventing tuition increases.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators introduced L.D. 2199/S.P 935, which would have reimbursed providers based on enrollment. The bills did not pass this session.</p>

<p>Maryland</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No Income eligibility in Maryland is set at 66% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 293% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in Maryland pay copayments of up to 1% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> Yes Maryland reimburses all providers at the 75th percentile of the state's 2021 market rate survey.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$328.5 million from the general fund for child care scholarships, an additional \$270 million from the prior year.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators enacted H.B. 1139, which provides funding for Growing Opportunities for Family Child Care, a pilot program that supports opening and sustaining new family child care programs, effective July 2024. Legislators did not introduce any bills related to child care scholarships.</p>
<p>Massachusetts</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No Income eligibility in Massachusetts is set at 50% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 237% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> No Families in Massachusetts pay copayments of up to 18% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No Massachusetts reimburses home-based infant care above the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey, whereas home-based toddler and center-based care are reimbursed below this percentile. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 24%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$40 per month to meet the 75th percentile. The state plans to set reimbursement rates based on a cost estimation model by July 2025.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$475 million in funding for Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) grants, originally funded through federal relief funds, to support providers' day-to-day operational and workforce costs. These allocations maintain the previous year's funding level.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators introduced the EARLY ED Act, which would increase income eligibility for child care assistance up to 85% of the SMI, cap copayments at 7% of family income, remove copayments for families below the federal poverty level, allow income eligibility limits to increase to 125% of the SMI when funds become available, require the creation of a career ladder with recommended salaries for early educators, and create a public-private matching pilot program for employers to support child care. As of October 1, 2024, the bill had not passed.</p>

<p>Michigan</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Michigan is set at 60% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b> Families in Michigan pay copayments of up to 8% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b> Michigan reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$298 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated an additional \$65 million to increase reimbursement rates to providers by 15%.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators introduced S.B. 836/H.B. 5637, which would require reimbursement rates for providers to be updated for inflation every year. As of October 1, 2024, the bill had not passed.</p>
<p>Minnesota</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Minnesota is set at 47% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 192% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b> Families in Minnesota pay copayments of up to 14% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b> Minnesota reimburses all providers at the 75th percentile of the state's 2020-2021 market rate survey.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators introduced S.F. 3790, which would have established the Great Start Affordability Scholarship for families with incomes up to 150% of the SMI and children under age 5. This initiative aimed to provide child care assistance for families not eligible for the federally funded child care assistance program. The bill did not pass this session.</p>
<p>Mississippi</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Mississippi is set at 75% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 184% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b> Families in Mississippi pay copayments of up to 7% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b> Mississippi reimburses all providers at the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 22%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators did not introduce any bills related to child care assistance.</p>

<p>Missouri</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in Missouri is set at 46% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 144% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b>  Families in Missouri pay copayments of up to 17% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b>  Missouri reimburses all providers above the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 58%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$54.8 million to increase reimbursement rates for infants and toddlers to the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile of the market rate survey.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators introduced H.B. 1893, which would have reimbursed providers based on enrollment. The bill did not pass this session.</p>
<p>Montana</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in Montana is set at 60% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 185% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b>  Families in Montana pay copayments of up to 8% of their income, an improvement from up to 10% in 2023.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Montana reimburses home-based care for infants and toddlers above the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey, whereas center-based care for infants and toddlers is reimbursed below this percentile. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 29%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$105 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  Although Montana did not hold a regular legislative session this year, in 2023, legislators enacted a Fiscal Year 2025 budget which allocated \$7 million in additional funds for each year of the 2024-2025 biennium to fund ongoing family copayment reductions and income eligibility increases.</p>

<p>Nebraska</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Nebraska is set at 56% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 185% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b> Families in Nebraska pay copayments of up to 7% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b> Nebraska reimburses all providers at or above the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators enacted L.B. 904, which allows the state to consider different federally approved methodologies to determine reimbursement rates. Additionally, legislators enacted L.B. 856, which will allow child care workers to receive a subsidy while they care for their own children, effective July 2025.</p>
<p>Nevada</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Nevada is set at 44% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 128% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b> Families in Nevada pay copayments of up to 9% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b> Nevada reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey. The state would need to increase reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$110 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> Nevada did not hold a regular legislative session this year.</p>

<p>New Hampshire</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> Yes Income eligibility in New Hampshire is set at 85% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 369% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in New Hampshire pay copayments of up to 7% of their income, an improvement from up to 20% in 2023.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No New Hampshire reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$214 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In 2023, legislators allocated \$15 million to recruit and retain early educators for the Fiscal Years 2024-2025 biennium.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators enacted H.B. 1202, which provides additional child care scholarship funding to programs caring for children at-risk of, or diagnosed with, a disability or special needs.</p>
<p>New Jersey</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No Income eligibility in New Jersey is set at 43% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in New Jersey pay copayments of up to 5% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No New Jersey reimburses home-based toddler care above the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey, whereas center-based and infant home-based care are reimbursed below this percentile. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 1%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$178 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators introduced bills which would have increased income eligibility for child care assistance up to 300% of the federal poverty level and increased reimbursement rates for child care programs participating in the state's quality rating system. As of October 1, 2024, the bills had not passed.</p>

<p>New Mexico</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? Yes</b>  Income eligibility in New Mexico is set at 162% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 400% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b>  New Mexico is waiving copayments for all families until further notice.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b>  New Mexico reimburses providers based on a cost estimation model.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators did not introduce any bills related to child care assistance.</p>
<p>New York</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? Yes</b>  Income eligibility in New York is set at 93% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 353% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b>  Families in New York pay copayments of up to 1% of their income, an improvement from up to 7% in 2023.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  New York reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2023 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$386 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators passed bills which would provide access to full-time care regardless of the hours spent working or in education or training, provide presumptive eligibility, and eliminate a minimum earnings requirement for child care assistance eligibility. The bills await governor signature as of October 1, 2024.</p> <p>Additionally, legislators introduced bills to develop a cost model to set reimbursement rates, establish a universal child care program pilot, increase income eligibility, and impose a payroll tax to fund the expansion of the child care assistance program. The bills did not pass this session.</p>



<p>North Carolina</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in North Carolina is set at 64% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b>  Families in North Carolina pay copayments of up to 10% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  North Carolina reimburses center-based care for infants above the 75th percentile, whereas center-based care for toddlers and home-based care are reimbursed below the 75th percentile of the state's 2021 market rate survey.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  Although North Carolina's Fiscal Year 2025 budget was enacted in 2023, in the last year, legislators enacted S.B. 357, which allocates \$67.5 million to continue funding for stabilization grants that were previously supported by federal relief funds. This allocation extends the stabilization grants through the end of 2024.</p> <p>Legislators also introduced bills to reduce family copayments, enhance child care provider wages, provide free child care for child care providers, and allocate new funds to support the subsidy program, workforce wage assistance programs, and early educator recruitment. The bills did not pass this session.</p>
<p>North Dakota</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in North Dakota is set at 81% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 300% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b>  Families in North Dakota pay copayments of up to 6% of a family's income, an improvement from up to 10% in 2023.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b>  North Dakota reimburses all providers above the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  North Dakota did not hold a regular legislative session this year.</p>

Ohio	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No Income eligibility in Ohio is set at 43% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 140% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> No Families in Ohio pay copayments of up to 27% of their income—the highest income eligibility limit in the country.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No Ohio reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 20%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$148 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators introduced H.B. 570, which would have made child care workers categorically eligible for child care assistance. As of October 1, 2024, this bill had not passed.</p>
Oklahoma	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> Yes Income eligibility in Oklahoma is set at 92% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 249% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in Oklahoma pay copayments of up to 7% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No Oklahoma reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2021 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$256 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators introduced bills to reimburse providers based on enrollment and to make child care workers categorically eligible for subsidies. The bills did not pass this session.</p>

Oregon	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Oregon is set at 57% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b> Families in Oregon pay copayments of up to 3% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? Yes</b> Oregon reimburses all providers above the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 17%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> Although Oregon's Fiscal Year 2025 budget was enacted in 2023, in the last year, legislators allocated \$99.2 million for the state's subsidy program. The legislature also approved a \$72 million special appropriation for the subsidy program, which the Department of Early Learning and Care can request from the Emergency Board, provided they demonstrate need based on caseload.</p> <p>Legislators also enacted H.B. 4098, which allocates \$5 million to fund and build new child care facilities and provide child care for construction workers enrolled in apprenticeship programs. The funds will help the state meet child care requirements for federal CHIPS grants and create a child care assistance program for CHIPS employees.</p>
Pennsylvania	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Pennsylvania is set at 55% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b> Families in Pennsylvania pay copayments of up to 12% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b> Pennsylvania reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$173 per month to meet the 75th percentile. The state plans to implement this increase effective January 2025.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated an additional \$26.2 million from the general fund for child care services, representing a 9.6% increase in funding from the previous year. This will allow the state to maintain its income eligibility limit for exiting the subsidy program at 300% of the federal poverty level and increase reimbursement rates to the 75th percentile of the market rate survey. The reimbursement rate increase is effective January 2025.</p>

<p>Rhode Island</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No  Income eligibility in Rhode Island is set at 54% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). The state plans to increase the eligibility to 261% of the FPL effective January 2025.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes  Families in Rhode Island pay copayments of up to 7% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No  Rhode Island reimburses toddler care and home-based infant care above the 75th percentile of the state's 2021 market rate survey, whereas center-based infant care is reimbursed below this percentile. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 5%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$46 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators included several changes to the child care assistance program in the enacted budget bill. The bill increases the income eligibility limit for child care assistance up to 261% of the FPL (70% of the SMI) level starting in January 2025, increases reimbursement rates for child care centers by 5% starting in July 2024, and extends a pilot program that provides child care assistance for child care educators and staff through July 2025. Legislators also enacted H.B. 7291, which will establish a state early care and education workforce registry data system.</p>
<p>South Carolina</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> Yes  Income eligibility in South Carolina is set at 93% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 271% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes  Families in South Carolina pay copayments of up to 4% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> Yes  South Carolina reimburses all providers at or above the 75th percentile of the state's 2020 market rate survey. The state published a cost estimation model in 2024, but rates have not been set based on the new tool.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$12.8 million from the state general fund for child care, a \$2.5 million increase from the previous fiscal year.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators did not introduce any bills related to child care scholarships.</p>

<p>South Dakota</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> No Income eligibility in South Dakota is set at 67% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 209% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in South Dakota pay copayments of up to 1% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No South Dakota reimburses home-based care at the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey, whereas center-based care is reimbursed below this percentile. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 23%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$47 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators introduced S.B. 125, which would have required the state to conduct a study on the cost of child care in the state. The bill did not pass this session.</p>
<p>Tennessee</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> Yes Income eligibility in Tennessee is set at 85% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 249% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in Tennessee pay copayments of up to 5% of a family's income, an improvement from up to 13% in 2023.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> No Tennessee reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 11%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$221 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated \$22.2 million from the state general fund for child care assistance, an \$8.2 million increase over the previous year. Legislators also allocated \$15 million from the state general fund to create new child care slots and improve existing ones.</p> <p>Legislators also enacted bills to establish two studies under the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The first study will examine regulatory barriers at the state and local level for child care programs. The second study will assess the current child care workforce landscape and review the feasibility of programs to support the workforce.</p> <p>Legislators also introduced bills to increase the income eligibility limit for child care assistance up to 100% of the SMI, develop an alternative methodology to set reimbursement rates, and create a local match funding program derived from a tax on car services. The bills did not pass this session.</p>

<p>Texas</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? Yes</b>  Income eligibility in Texas is set at 93% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 285% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b>  Families in Texas pay copayments of up to 7% of a family’s income, an improvement from up to 12% in 2023.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Texas reimburses infant care at or above the 75th percentile of the state’s 2023-2024 market rate survey, whereas toddler care is reimbursed below this percentile. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 9%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  Texas did not hold a regular legislative session this year.</p>
<p>Utah</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? Yes</b>  Income eligibility in Utah is set at 94% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 308% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b>  Families in Utah pay copayments of up to 7% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Utah reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state’s 2024 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 18%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$95 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators enacted H.B. 461, which expands eligibility for child care assistance to children with at least one parent who works full-time as an employee of a child care worker, effective May 2024, and subject to available federal funds.</p>

<p>Vermont</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> Yes Income eligibility in Vermont is set at 160% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 575% of the federal poverty level. In the last year, the state increased its income eligibility limit from 102% of the SMI.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> No Families in Vermont pay copayments of up to 15% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> Yes Vermont reimburses all providers above the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 35%.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> For Fiscal Year 2025, the legislature fully funded Act 76 of 2023, a \$125 million increase for the state's child care system. Throughout the year, the state has implemented changes outlined in the 2023 legislation, including increased reimbursement rates, a higher income eligibility limit, and a shift to reimbursement based on enrollment. The payroll tax to fund Act 76 went into effect in July 2024.</p> <p>In the last year, through the state budget, legislators transformed the state's child care assistance program into an entitlement program, mandating that the state fund every child who applies and qualifies for assistance, effective July 2025.</p>
<p>Virginia</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)?</b> Yes Income eligibility in Virginia is set at 94% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 371% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less?</b> Yes Families in Virginia pay copayments of up to 6% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model?</b> Yes Virginia reimburses providers based on a cost estimation model.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators enacted a biennial budget for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026. For the child care subsidy program, the state allocated \$169.8 million from the general fund for FY2025 and \$266.5 million for FY2026. This increased funding for FY2026 is projected to expand the number of available slots from 42,719 to 45,159. For all early childhood education programs, the state increased general fund allocations by \$366 million in FY2025 and \$461 million in FY2026.</p> <p>Legislators introduced H.B. 627, which would have made child care workers categorically eligible for subsidies. The bill did not pass this session.</p>

<p>Washington</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in Washington is set at 65% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 256% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? Yes</b>  Families in Washington pay copayments of up to 6% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  Washington reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$428 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  For Fiscal Year 2025, legislators allocated an additional \$5.561 million from the general fund to increase reimbursement rates for infant care.</p> <p>In the last year, legislators enacted H.B. 1945, which allows SNAP receipt to satisfy the income requirements for subsidies, effective June 2024. Additionally, legislators enacted H.B. 2124, which will allow families participating in other early care and learning programs to participate in subsidies, and extends subsidy eligibility for employees of all early care and learning programs in the state, effective November 2024.</p>
<p>West Virginia</p>	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b>  Income eligibility in West Virginia is set at 45% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 124% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b>  Families in West Virginia pay copayments of up to 19% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b>  West Virginia reimburses home-based care for infants and toddlers at the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey, whereas center-based care for infants and toddlers is reimbursed below this percentile. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$29 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b>  In the last year, legislators introduced bills which would have reimbursed child care providers based on enrollment, urged state universities to create a cost estimation model, and made child care workers categorically eligible for child care assistance. The bills did not pass this session.</p>



Wisconsin	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Wisconsin is set at 57% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b> Families in Wisconsin pay copayments of up to 11% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b> Wisconsin reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2024 market rate survey. The state would need to increase its reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by \$199 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators did not introduce any bills related to child care subsidies.</p>
Wyoming	<p><b>Is the income eligibility limit at or above 85% of the state median income (SMI)? No</b> Income eligibility in Wyoming is set at 52% of the SMI, which is equivalent to 175% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p><b>Does the state limit copayments to 7% of family income or less? No</b> Families in Wyoming pay copayments of up to 13% of their income.</p> <p><b>Does the state set infant and toddler provider reimbursement rates at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate survey or are rates set based on a cost estimation model? No</b> Wyoming reimburses providers below the 75th percentile of the state's 2022 market rate survey. Since October 2023, reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care increased by 4%, but rates would need to increase by an additional \$95 per month to meet the 75th percentile.</p> <p><b>State Context and Policy Update</b> In the last year, legislators enacted H.B.126, which asserts that child care is a residential use of property, for the purposes of any restrictive covenant on residential property that does not clearly and expressly prohibit child care. Legislators did not introduce any bills related to child care assistance.</p>