



States With Separate Child Care Eligibility Limits for Families Entering and Those Already Receiving Assistance

In general, income eligibility limits for state child care assistance programs represent the maximum income families can have when they apply for child care assistance. Twenty states allow families, once receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit.¹ As the chart shows, six Northeastern states follow this practice, including Massachusetts and Connecticut.² All of these states have higher “incoming” and “exit” limits than Rhode Island’s current single limit of 180% FPL.

NORTHEASTERN STATES WITH SEPARATE CHILD CARE ELIGIBILITY LIMITS FOR FAMILIES ENTERING THE PROGRAM AND THOSE ALREADY RECEIVING ASSISTANCE (2008)				
	Incoming		Exit	
	% Federal Poverty Level ³	Maximum Income for Family of 3	% Federal Poverty Level	Maximum Income for Family of 3
CT	223%	\$39,405	335%	\$59,107
DC	228%	\$40,225	274%	\$48,270
MA	213%	\$37,526	362%	\$63,794
ME	232%	\$40,828	262%	\$46,271
NJ	200%	\$35,200	250%	\$44,000
PA	200%	\$35,200	235%	\$41,360

¹ Data from National Women’s Law Center’s report “State Child Care Assistance Policies 2008: Too Little Progress for Children and Families”. See <http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/StateChildCareAssistancePoliciesReport08.pdf>

² The remaining states include: AL, CA, CO, FL, IN, KY, MN, MO, NM, SC, TX, UT, WV, WI, WY. Note that in Colorado and Texas, eligibility levels are determined by county based on certain state guidelines. The guidelines in both states allow families to continue to receive assistance up to 85% of the state median income. In California, families are only allowed to continue on assistance above the incoming eligibility level if the family has been receiving assistance since 1998.

³ The 2008 federal poverty level (FPL) for a family of 3 was \$17,600/year.