

**States With Separate Child Care Eligibility Limits for Families
Entering and Those Already Receiving Assistance
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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. Nineteen 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, five Northeastern states follow this practice, including Connecticut and Massachusetts.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 (2009)				
	Incoming		Exit	
	% Federal Poverty Level³	Maximum Income for Family of 3	% Federal Poverty Level	Maximum Income for Family of 3
CT	224%	\$41,037	336%	\$61,556
DC	234%	\$42,925	274%	\$48,270
MA	214%	\$39,208	364%	\$66,653
NJ	200%	\$36,620	250%	\$45,775
PA	200%	\$36,620	235%	\$43,029
RI	180%	\$32,958	180%	\$32,958

¹ Data from National Women’s Law Center’s report “State Child Care Assistance Policies 2009: Most State Hold the Line, but Some Lose Ground in Hard Times”. See <http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/nwlcstatechildcareassistancepolicies2009.pdf>

² The remaining states include: AL, CA, CO, FL, IN, KY, MN, MO, 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 2009 federal poverty level (FPL) for a family of 3 was \$18,310/year.