

# Diaper Distribution Pilot

## Alabama



### Diaper Need in the U.S.

Diapers are essential for the health and well-being of babies and toddlers, but one in three families in the United States do not have enough of them to meet the needs of their children. Diapers alone can cost 8% of a person's total income if they are making the federal minimum wage, and parents and caregivers who don't have enough diapers often can't send their children to childcare. This leads to missed days at work and school, missed early education opportunities for toddlers, and an increased likelihood of painful rashes and infections. A lack of diapers is not only a public health issue: it is a formidable obstacle to economic mobility for low-income families.

### About the Diaper Distribution Pilot

To help address diaper needs and increase economic security, the [Office of Community Services \(OCS\)](#) at the [Department of Health and Human Services](#) first launched the new Diaper Distribution

Demonstration and Research Pilot at the end of September 2022, during Diaper Need Awareness Week. This program, also known as the Diaper Distribution Pilot, channels new funding to expand existing diaper distribution services, through the robust network of anti-poverty services that the OCS already provides through the Community Services Block Grant.

The Diaper Distribution Pilot puts another anti-poverty tool in the hands of Community Action Agencies and their partners as part of their efforts to provide wraparound services for individuals and families with low incomes. The Diaper Distribution Pilot also connects families to economic mobility and family support services such as job training, educational support, Early Head Start, housing services, and more. OCS understands that this Diaper Distribution Pilot is about more than just diapers – it is about lifting a real and tangible barrier to health and wellbeing for low-income families. It is also about connecting those families with other programs that address the conditions and causes of poverty and help them take steps toward self-sufficiency.

### About the Grant Recipient

The [Community Action Association of Alabama \(CAAA\)](#) works to better focus local, state, private, and federal resources to assist low-income individuals and families statewide. CAAA is a partnership made up of 18 Community Action Agencies funded by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) working to produce measurable outcomes and results to eliminate poverty.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded for the Diaper Pilot, CAAA will distribute diapers and diapering supplies to low-income families while providing parenting education and increasing accessing to wrap-around services. CAAA will collaborate with multiple partners including agency Early Head Start programs, the [National Diaper Bank Network](#), and local community organizations such as:

- [VOICES for Alabama's Children](#)
- [Low-Income Housing Coalition of Alabama](#)
- [Collaborative Solutions](#)
- [Alabama Possible](#)
- [Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank](#)
- [Whatley Health Services](#)
- [Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Inc. \(CSP\)](#)

### Diaper Need in Alabama

- **1 in 5** Alabama children live below the Federal Poverty Line.
- Alabama ranks **47<sup>th</sup>** for overall child well-being across the United States.
- In Alabama, families with infants in the lowest **20%** of income level spend an average of **14%** of their income on diapers alone.
- **20** Alabama counties are designated as persistent poverty areas.

For more information about CAAA, visit their [website](#) or contact [Kris Rowe, Executive Director](#).

For more information about the Diaper Distribution Pilot or OCS's seven anti-poverty programs, visit the [OCS website](#).