

# Diaper Distribution Pilot

## California



### 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 [California Community Action Partnership Association](#) (CalCAPA) exists to support Community Action Agencies and CSBG Eligible Entities in strengthening communities. Sixty agencies across California strive to create opportunities to overcome the causes and conditions of poverty and help communities and families of low-income reach self-sustainability.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, CalCAPA will partner with the [National Diaper Bank Network](#) and the following local agencies:

- [The Urban Services Y – Community Action Agency \(San Francisco County\)](#)
- [Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County](#)
- [Merced County Community Action Agency](#)
- [Community Action Partnership of Kern](#)
- [SupplyBank.org](#)

### Diaper Need in California

- **1 in 10** people in California live below the Federal Poverty Line.
- Racial disparities are stark in California's child poverty rate: while the overall child poverty rate was **8%** in 2021, **3%** of white children in California live below the Federal Poverty Line compared to **10%** of Latinx children.
- **Geographic barriers** worsen diaper need for low-income families in California: most commercial laundry facilities do not allow cloth diapers and cost-saving measures like buying in bulk are unfeasible due to the distance needed to travel to big box stores.