

Diaper Distribution Pilot

Maryland



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 [Maryland Community Action Partnership](#) (MCAP) is a non-profit, multi-regional association empowering individuals and families to reach economic security and the umbrella organization serving the interests of Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in Maryland, Washington D.C., and Delaware.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, MCAP will scale up existing diaper distribution services by establishing diaper distribution infrastructure, providing training and technical assistance, conducting equity-informed outreach, and designing a wrap-around service strategy to address the need for diapers for low-income families. MCAP will collaborate with a variety of state and local partners including:

- Regional and local diaper banks such as the [Maryland Diaper Bank](#), [Greater DC Diaper Bank](#) and [ShareBaby](#)
- State agencies including the [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development \(DHCD\)](#) and the [Two-Generation \(2-G\) Family Economic Security Commission](#)
- [Ubuntu Black Family Wellness Collective](#)

Diaper Need in Maryland

- Poverty has increased **19.3%** in Maryland between 1990 and 2016.
- **44%** of Maryland's children are eligible for free and reduced meals.
- **48%** of low-income people in Maryland have incomes below 50% of the Federal Poverty Line.
- The average cost for diapers per year is **\$1,196**; when the Child Tax Credit reverts to \$2,000 in 2023, low-income families will be especially vulnerable.