

# Diaper Distribution Pilot

## Massachusetts



### 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 [Massachusetts Association of Community Action Programs \(MASSCAP\)](#) is a statewide membership organization of 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs). MASSCAP's mission is to strengthen, unify, and advocate for statewide CAAs to advance economic, racial, and social justice and create communities where everyone thrives.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded from the Diaper Distribution Pilot, MASSCAP will use diaper distribution as an entry to wraparound services, broadening the impact for diverse low-income communities and propelling them towards economic security and wellbeing. MASSCAP will partner with the [National Diaper Bank Network](#) and the following organizations:

- The [Massachusetts Head Start Association](#) and local Head Start programs
- [The Diaper Bank of Connecticut](#)
- [United Way of the Franklin & Hampshire Region](#)
- [Children's HealthWatch](#)
- [Cradles to Crayons](#)
- Local Community Action Agencies including:
  - [North Shore Community Actions Programs](#)
  - [Valley Opportunity Council](#)
  - [Citizens for Citizens](#)

### Diaper Need in Massachusetts

- **36%** of Massachusetts families with young children could not afford enough diapers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The child poverty rate in Massachusetts is **12.2%**.
- An estimated **19.2%** of Massachusetts households with children are food insecure.
- **73%** of mothers in the Massachusetts workforce have infants to care for at home.

For more information about MASSCAP, visit their website or contact [Joe Diamond, Executive Director](#).

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