

# Diaper Distribution Pilot

## Ohio



### 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 [Ohio Community Action Training Organization \(OCATO\)](#) is the designated technical assistance provider to the 48 Community Action Agencies in Ohio. OCATO's mission is to address the need for quality training for providers of services to low-income populations in the state.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded from the Diaper Distribution Pilot, OCATO will ensure the regular distribution of diapers, diapering supplies, and wraparound services to low-income Ohio families. OCATO's and its partnering agencies' mandate is to identify local needs; design and deliver programs that address those needs; and build a referral network for needs that cannot be addressed with existing services. OCATO will partner with the following CAAs and Diaper Banks in three counties:

- Mahoning County: [Mahoning Youngtown Community Action Partnership](#) and [Project MKC](#)
- Hamilton County: [Community Action Agency Cincinnati-Hamilton County](#) and [Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank](#)
- Fairfield County: [Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action](#) and [Bottoms Up Diaper Bank](#)

### Diaper Need in Ohio

- Ohio's nine Diaper Banks support **6,873** infants and toddlers every month, distributing **4,123,840** diapers annually.
- **23%** of children under the age of 3 in Ohio live in families earning 100% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line.
- **30%** of Ohio WIC recipients are infants, compared to 24% nationally.
- Ohio is one of the 29 states that charges sales tax on diapers.