

Diaper Distribution Pilot

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation



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 [Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate \(SWO\) of the Lake Traverse Reservation](#), located within the boundaries of South Dakota, will collaborate with tribal and community programs in finding and meeting the needs of parents/guardians through a pilot program and decrease health disparities for Native children who need diapers.

Using the \$1.08 million awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, the SWO Early Childhood Intervention Diaper Distribution Project will assist up to 450 Native children on the Lake Traverse Reservation with up to 50% of their monthly diapering needs. The pilot will collaborate regularly with several tribal programs and existing community and federal programs including:

- [SWO Tribal Protection Program](#)
- [Head Start/Early Head Start Programs](#)
- Pregnancy and parenting programs: [Women Infant Child State Program](#), [Public Health Nursing-Indian Health Services](#)
- Home Visiting Programs: [Bright Start Education Program](#)
- Education Programs: [FACE Program](#)
- [SWO Disaster Assistance Response Employees \(DARE\)](#)

Diaper Need in Lake Traverse Reservation

- **37%** of children under the age of 5 within the Lake Traverse Reservation area live below the Federal Poverty Line.
- **20.7%** of residents of the Lake Traverse Reservation have an income below the Federal Poverty Line, compared to 13% statewide.
- **17.4%** of Lake Traverse Reservation families receive SNAP benefits.

For more information about the SWO of the Lake Traverse Reservation

[visit their website](#) or contact [Charnelle Gill, Program Manager](#).

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