

Diaper Distribution Pilot

Utah



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 [Utah Community Action Partnership Association](#) (CAP Utah) is the statewide association for Utah's nine Community Action Agencies (CAAs). CAP Utah's mission is to lead, strengthen, and support the Community Action network by working with community stakeholders to advocate for vulnerable populations, build thriving communities, and end poverty.

Using the \$1.1 million awarded from the Diaper Distribution Pilot, CAP Utah will expand access to diapers for families with low incomes, build the capacity of partners, and evaluate the impact of diaper distribution at various service delivery stages. CAP Utah will work collaboratively with the [Utah Diaper Bank](#) and the following CAAs:

- [Utah Community Action](#)
- [Community Actions Services and Food Bank](#)
- [Open Doors](#)
- [Southeastern Utah Association of Local Government](#)
- [Five County Association of Governments](#)

Diaper Need in Utah

- **84%** of Utah's low-income children who qualified for Medicaid in 2021 were not enrolled.
- The child poverty rate in Utah is **9.5%**.
- Utah Diaper Bank distributes over **940,000** diapers a year with volunteer staff.
- Utah is one of 29 states that charges sales tax on diapers.