

Diaper Distribution Pilot Connecticut



Diaper Need in the United States

Diapers are essential for the health and well-being of babies and toddlers. 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 child care. 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 families with low incomes.

About the Diaper Distribution Pilot

The [Office of Community Services](#) (OCS) at the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) announced its third cohort of Diaper Distribution Pilot grant recipients during National Diaper Need Awareness Week. This program 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 (CAAs) 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, housing services, and more. OCS understands that this Diaper Distribution Pilot is about more than just diapers – it is about lifting barriers to health and well-being for families with low incomes, and connecting those families with other programs that address the causes and conditions of poverty and help them take steps toward self-sufficiency.

About the Grant Recipient

The [Connecticut Association for Community Action's](#) (CAFCA) mission is to support, strengthen, and promote the work of the community action agencies statewide to advance economic, racial, and social justice.

Using the \$1,200,000 awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, CAFCA plans to distribute over 1.3 million diapers and supplies, ensuring that the families with young children who are clients of Connecticut CAAs have enough diapers to keep their children safe, healthy, and clean and to allow caregivers to hold steady work. As a result, participants will increase their connection to wraparound support services and decrease the number of missed days for children enrolled in child care.

CAFCA will partner with:

- [The Diaper Bank of Connecticut](#)
- [Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance](#)
- [Connecticut Foodshare](#)
- Six local community action agencies:
 - [Community Action Agency of New Haven](#)
 - [New Opportunities](#)
 - [Alliance for Community Empowerment](#)
 - [Community Renewal Team](#)
 - [Human Resources Agency of New Britain](#)
 - [Thames Valley Council for Community Action](#)

Diaper Need in Connecticut

- **More than 1 in 4** children in Connecticut have parents who lack secure employment.¹
- **12.7%** of Connecticut children live below the poverty line.²
- Center based infant care in Connecticut costs more than **\$19,000 per year**.³

¹ Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count

² ACF Children's Bureau

³ U.S Department of Labor Women's Bureau