

Diaper Distribution Pilot Maine



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 [Maine Community Action Partnership](#) (MeCAP) exists to improve the quality of life of Maine residents by advocating for, promoting, and supporting the work of the Maine community action agencies.

Using the \$990,992 awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, MeCAP will support caregivers with young children who are facing economic hardship and are working toward self-sufficiency, with a focus on families in eight Maine counties and tribal areas. MeCAP will also take advantage of the diversity of home visitation and other family-facing programs available through partner agencies, focusing on Maine families that have historically been marginalized by poverty, disability, geographic location, substance use disorder, and other external factors.

MeCAP will partner with:

- [Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine](#)
- [Healthy Community Coalition](#)
- [Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness](#)
- Four local community action agencies:
 - [Aroostook County Action Program](#)
 - [The Opportunity Alliance](#)
 - [Waldo County Action Program](#)
 - [Western Maine Community Action](#)

Diaper Need in Maine

- **1 in 4** of Maine's children have parents who lack secure employment.¹
- **13.8%** of children in Maine live below the poverty line.²
- Child care in Maine costs on average **\$11,700 per year.**²

¹ Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count

² MeCAP

For more information about the Diaper Distribution Pilot or OCS's nine anti-poverty programs, [visit the OCS website](#). For more information about Maine Community Action Partnership, visit their [website](#) or contact [Megan Hannan](#), executive director.