

Diaper Distribution Pilot New York



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 [New York State Community Action Association's \(NYSCAA\)](#) mission is to strengthen the capacity of the Community Action Network to address the causes and conditions of poverty.

Using the \$1,130,029 awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, NYSCAA plans to increase the financial stability of participating families by purchasing and facilitating the delivery of diapers, including home delivery in some cases, to remove structural barriers that keep families from accessing a reliable supply of diapers. Focusing on diverse, rural New York counties with high rates of childhood poverty, this program will help to address the persistent need for diapers while also connecting families to robust wraparound support services, like early childhood education, emergency and affordable housing programs, and work readiness programs.

NYSCAA will partner with:

- Two diaper banks:
 - [Every Bottom Covered](#)
 - [CNY Diaper Bank](#)
- Four local community action agencies:
 - [Community Action Programs Cayuga/Seneca](#)
 - [Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc.](#)
 - [Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.](#)
 - [Community Action for Wyoming County](#)

Diaper Need in New York

- New York ranks **45th** in the country for children's economic well being.¹
- Nearly **1 in 5** of New York's children live below the poverty line.¹
- **52%** of children in New York receive free or reduced price school lunches.²
- Center based infant child care in New York on average costs more than **\$20,000 per year.**³

¹ Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count

² New York State Council on Children & Families

³ U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau