

Diaper Distribution Pilot Ponca Tribe of Nebraska



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 [Ponca Tribe of Nebraska](#) delivers social services to fifteen counties in Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. The tribe's social services department mission is to provide quality and culturally appropriate social work services to Ponca members and their families. The Ponca Department of Social Services provides an array of services designed to improve the lives of tribal members, with a special emphasis on families, children, youth, and Elders. Their commitment is to honor Elders and to treat tribal children as a sacred trust.

Using the \$1,200,000 awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska plans to enhance the existing diaper distribution activities within the Ponca Tribe. In addition to Ponca tribal members, this program will serve the more than 35,000 Native Americans living within the service delivery area through monthly diaper distribution. Coordinating with other tribal services, this program will connect families with the wraparound support services they need to thrive.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska will mobilize the breadth of its tribal organization to execute this program, including:

- Tribal Affairs
- Ponca Health Services
- Northern Ponca Housing Authority
- OSNI Ponca
- The Tribal Court

Diaper Need for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

- **27.7%** of indigenous people in Nebraska live in poverty.¹
- **More than 2,000** enrolled tribal members live in the service delivery area.¹
- **14%** of Ponca Tribe primary caregivers are grandparents.¹

¹ Ponca Tribe of Nebraska