

Diaper Distribution Pilot

Arizona



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 babies. Diapers, alone, can cost 8% of a person's total income if they are making federal minimum wage, and parents and caregivers who don't have enough diapers often can't drop their children off at 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](#) launched a 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, and 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 Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona](#) (AZDB) is a non-profit organization committed to providing diapers and incontinence supplies to children and adults through collaborative community partnerships. Similarly, the [Arizona Community Action Association \(Wildfire\)](#) unites communities to end poverty through community-based initiatives and solutions. Its efforts aim to create lasting change to stop poverty before it begins.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, AZDB and Wildfire will partner together to increase the health, wellness, security, and independence of the diverse populations served. Each month, AZDB and Wildfire will distribute a supplemental supply of diapers to low-income families through local CAA across the state. The funds will enable the purchase and distribution of 3,573,250 diapers through local CAAs. AZDB and Wildfire will also receive a contribution of \$65,000 in supplies from the National Diaper Bank to help meet the diaper needs in this community.

Diaper Need in Arizona

- The Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona distributed over **860,000** diapers and **215,000** adult incontinence products in 2020.
- **1 in 4** Arizona children live below the Federal Poverty Line.
- **1 in 3** Arizona families struggled to afford enough diapers to keep their children clean and healthy prior to the pandemic. The rising cost of diapers has increased the number of families affected.
- **32%** of low-income families report reusing diapers to save money in order to pay critical household expenses such as rent, utilities, and food; leading to negative health consequences for children.