

Diaper Distribution Pilot

North Carolina



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 North Carolina Community Action Association (NCCAA) is a trusted resource and proven advocate for its statewide network of 34 Community Action Agencies. NCCAA collaborates with community members, local governments, public and private partners, and thousands of local volunteers to invest in holistic community-based, anti-poverty strategies.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded from the Diaper Distribution Pilot, NCCAA will join multiple community partners, including the agency program Early Head Start, the statewide non-profit community organization, [Diaper Bank of North Carolina](#), and five community action agencies including:

- [Choanoke Area Development Association of NC, Inc.](#)
- [Economic Improvement Council, Inc.](#)
- [Franklin Vance Warren Opportunity, Inc.](#)
- [Greene Lamp, Inc.](#)
- [Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency, Inc.](#)

The award will allow NCCAA to focus on serving 14 diverse counties across the state which are currently underserved and economically depressed. The Diaper Distribution Pilot Program will provide diapers, wipes, and ointments to the 405 children on the Early Head Start Program waitlist. By year two of the pilot, NCCAA can accommodate 534 children on waitlists. NCCAA will also receive a contribution of \$65,000 in supplies from the National Diaper Bank Network to help meet the diaper needs in this community.

Diaper Need in North Carolina

- **46,870 children** in the 14 most underserved counties of North Carolina currently live with diaper need
- **1.5 million** North Carolinians live in poverty
- **Over 32%** of those living in poverty are minor children under the age of 18.

For more information about NCCAA, [visit their website](#) or contact info@nccaa.net.

For more information about the Diaper Distribution Pilot or OCS's seven anti-poverty programs, [visit the OCS website](#).