

Diaper Distribution Pilot

South 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

[South Carolina Association of Community Action Partnerships \(SCACAP\)](#) is a statewide non-profit community-based organization that aims to develop and support programs to promote self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life for income-eligible children, youth, individuals, and families.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded from the Diaper Distribution Pilot, SCACAP will continue its partnerships with Community Action Agencies, Head Start Programs, State and National Diaper Bank Network, local Social Service Agencies, and other community organizations in South Carolina. These partnerships will enable SCACAP to operate and expand diaper distribution to low-income families. SCACAP 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 South Carolina

- **56,364** of children under age 3 in South Carolina are living in poverty.
- The cost of infant care among two-parent households in South Carolina averages **11% of total house income**; for single-parent household income, the average rises to about 39%.
- Parents who are unable to access childcare because of a lack of diapers, on average, miss **4** days of work or school per month.
- Funding for diapers and diapering supplies can correlate to a **33%** decline in the occurrence of diaper rash, or **77%** few days of diaper rash.