

Diaper Distribution Pilot

Virginia



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 Virginia Community Action Partnership \(VACAP\)](#) is a statewide membership association for Virginia's 31 non-profit private and public community action agencies. VACAP's mission is to build the capacity and competencies of Virginia's community action agencies to achieve their mission of creating economic opportunities and mobility from poverty for Virginians.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded from the Diaper Distribution Pilot, VACAP will pilot and research the delivery of diapers and wraparound services to at least 157 families at four sites across Virginia, with plans to increase to at least 187 families. The four geographically diverse partnerships include:

- Richmond: [City of Richmond](#), [Capital Diaper Bank \(Urban Baby Beginnings\)](#), [Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People](#)
- Williamsburg: [Williamsburg-James City County Community Action Agency](#), [Williamsburg House of Mercy Diaper Bank](#)
- Southwest Virginia: [Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency](#)
- Coastal Virginia: [The Hampton Roads Community Action Partnership](#)

VACAP will also receive a contribution of \$65,000 in supplies from the National Diaper Bank Network to help meet the diaper needs in these communities.

Diaper Need in Virginia

- **60%** of children living in Richmond, Virginia live at or below the federal poverty level.
- Mothers who have young children and live below the poverty level are **11 times** more likely to develop postpartum depression, impacting their ability to care for their children, take care of their household, or hold a stable job.
- **69,589** children between the ages of 0 and 5 live in poverty in Virginia.
- In Richmond, Virginia, families in the lowest **20%** of income level spend an average of **13.9%** of their income on diapers alone.