

Diaper Distribution Pilot

Washington



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 Washington State Community Action Partnership \(WSCAP\)](#) is a non-profit organization created to build healthy communities and eliminate poverty through a unified network of Community Action Agencies across Washington State. WSCAP also provides training and technical assistance to each of its 30 agencies, ensuring high-quality professional services for those seeking assistance. Using the \$800,000 awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, WSCAP will partner with the following local agencies:

- [Benton-Franklin Community Action Committee](#)
- [Lower Columbia Community Action Program](#)
- [Multi-Service Center](#)
- [WestSide Baby Diaper Bank](#)
- [Olympic Community Action Programs](#)
- [Neighborhood House](#)

By providing training and technical assistance, WSCAP will work with its partners to increase operations and capacity to provide diapers and diapering supplies, such as ointments and wipes, to children in low-income families. WSCAP 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 Washington

- **12.6%** of children in Washington live in poverty.
- Low-income families in Washington spend nearly **14%** of their monthly income on diapers