



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Suite 600  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20447

April 27, 2012

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative DeLauro:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting clarification on the position of the Office of Child Care (OCC) regarding the use of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) monies for diapers. I understand that expenses associated with diapers can be a significant burden for low-income parents.

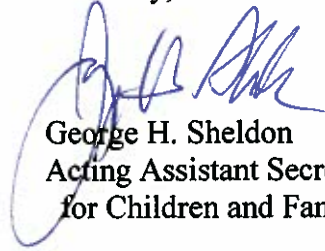
Your letter referenced the fact that Head Start programs purchase diapers. This is possible because the Federal Government provides funds directly to programs to buy equipment, supplies, and pay salaries. In the case of child care, 90 percent of CCDF monies are disbursed to parents in the form of vouchers. The Administration for Children and Families' OCC has no direct agreement (contract) with individual providers that allows for the routine reimbursement of supplies, equipment, or any other specific item. The reimbursement rates established by the States are intended to reimburse child care providers for the provision of services. This includes the operational costs incurred by the provider in delivering such services, and may include the costs of diapers and diapering supplies if the child care program provides them.

As you note, Lead Agencies are required to spend a minimum of 4 percent of funds on activities to improve the quality and availability of child care. State child care agencies may use CCDF quality dollars to fund a wide variety of initiatives, including helping providers with the cost of supplies and other materials needed to provide high quality care. With this extensive flexibility, a State can choose to use CCDF quality funds to supply diapers for infants and toddlers. However, there are numerous demands on the CCDF funds, which currently meet only 16 percent of the need for care.

OCC has met with representatives from the National Diaper Bank Network to learn more about their work to increase access to diapers for low-income families. They provide an excellent example of a private initiative that supports our nations' most needy families. We support their efforts and hope that we can work with them in a public-private partnership to promote their services to child care providers who care for CCDF-subsidized children in all States.

I hope this information is helpful to you. I also will provide this response to the Members of Congress who cosigned your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. H. Sheldon", is written over the typed name.

George H. Sheldon  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Children and Families