

January 31 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

Thank you for your ongoing service and dedication to our country as we continue recovering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, one in three US families with children under three years old struggled to afford enough diapers to keep their child clean, dry, and healthy. While our economy is improving, the struggle to afford material basic necessities such as diapers remains a barrier to families' health and economic well-being as long as it is not addressed through an expanded partnership of nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the federal government.

As organizations working to build strong foundations for all children and families, we ask you to pass a final fiscal year 2022 spending package that will increase investments in families and provide \$200 million funding through the Social Services Block Grant to build a national grant program for community-based diaper distribution. The resources included in the fiscal year 2022 Labor, Health, and Human Services Appropriations bill would enable nonprofit organizations and agencies to scale diaper distribution efforts to address a substantial backlog of unmet need and cover regional service gaps. This program would leverage an existing network of over 225 diaper banks and their more than 5,000 partner agencies directly serving families living in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Diaper banks and other nonprofit organizations have always stretched limited resources to meet just part of the need in their communities. Without enough diapers each day, infants and toddlers are at risk of skin infections, open sores, urinary tract infections, and other conditions that may require medical attention. Ensuring families have the diapers they need is an incredibly efficient and cost-effective method to improve the health and well-being of parents and children across the country.

Due to the economic fall-out of the pandemic, diaper need in our communities skyrocketed, with local diaper banks seeing increases in need of up to 600 percent. In 2020, National Diaper Bank Network members rapidly scaled their work – relying mostly on philanthropy – to increase distribution by 86 percent on average. Diaper banks have continued distributing at historic highs despite no government funding allocated to diaper banks in any of the COVID recovery packages.

Most all child care providers require parents to provide a daily or weekly supply of disposable diapers to care for a child. The cost of a sufficient supply of diapers averages \$80-\$100 monthly, creating a barrier for parents even when child care is subsidized. About 60 percent of parents struggling with diaper need report missing an average of four days of work or school each month. These lost wages and related decreases in spending present an unnecessary drag on families' financial wellbeing and the local economy.

Providing families with diapers protects the health of children and promotes the economic success of parents. When parents have a sufficient supply of diapers to meet the basic needs of their babies, a critical barrier to child care is removed, supporting their ability to work and/or attend school. Diapers are a lynchpin to potential jobs and opportunities for economic advancement. Additionally, a sufficient supply of diapers reduces instances of diaper dermatitis and urinary tract infections, making children healthier, saving families money, and potentially eliminating millions of dollars of preventable health care costs. These factors combine to provide more than \$11 return on every \$1 invested in a diaper bank's services. As logistics experts and through relationships with manufacturers, diaper banks purchase and distribute products below retail cost while efficiently supporting numerous community agencies serving families in need.

We urge that the FY 2022 final conference report include \$200 million for community diaper distribution proposed in the LHHS Appropriations bill. This proposal has enjoyed bipartisan support. With the economic recovery still in progress and inflation cutting into family budgets, passing a FY 2022 funding package that includes investments in American families is critical to supporting the well-being of parents and children everywhere.

Sincerely,

National

Coalition on Human Needs
First Focus Campaign for Children
Good+Foundation
Hispanic Federation
National Association of Counties (NACo)

National Charity League, Inc
National Diaper Bank Network
National Women's Law Center
RESULTS
ZERO TO THREE

Arizona

Diaper Bank of Central Arizona (Phoenix)

District of Columbia

Greater DC Diaper Bank
RESULTS DC/MD

Connecticut

The Diaper Bank of Connecticut (North Haven)

Georgia

Athens Area Diaper Bank (Athens)
Helping Mamas (Norcross)

California

Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank (San Diego)
SupplyBank.org (Oakland)

Florida

Alliance for Period Supplies of SWFL (Estero)
Covered South Florida Inc (Boca Raton)

Diaper Bank of Northeast Florida
(Jacksonville)
Miami Diaper Bank Inc (Miami)

Hawaii

Aloha Diaper Bank (Honolulu)

Idaho

Idaho Diaper Bank (Meridian)

Illinois

Covered Bottoms Diaper Bank, Inc (Quincy)
Cradles to Crayons (Chicago)
The Diaper Bank of Northern Illinois
(McHenry)
Keeping Families Covered (Waukegan)
Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank (Galesburg)
Share our Space (Chicago)

Indiana

All-Options Hoosier Diaper Program
(Bloomington)

Kansas

Happy Bottoms (Lenexa)
Offering Hope Foundation (Leawood)
Strategy Execution Advisors LLC (Overland
Park)

Louisiana

Basic Necessities (Shreveport)
Junior League of New Orleans (New
Orleans)

Maryland

Judy Center (Annapolis)
Love Wins Food Distribution Center
(Severn)
St Matthews United Methodist Women
(Shady Side)
Walk the Walk Foundation (Annapolis)

Massachusetts

A Baby Center (Hyannis)
Baby Basics, Inc (Needham)
North Shore Postpartum Help (Gloucester)

Maine

Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services
(Portland)

Michigan

Metropolitan Detroit Diaper Bank (Detroit)
Natural Momma Me Initiative (Detroit)
Nestlings (Holland)
St. Luke's Diaper Bank (Kalamazoo)

Minnesota

Diaper Bank of Minnesota (St. Paul)
SCA (Shakopee Community Assistance)

Missouri

Ash Grove Diaper Bank (Ash Grove)
Ash Grove Fiends and Neighbors (Ash
Grove)
Diaper Bank of the Ozarks (Springfield)
First Chance for Children (Columbia)
HappyBottoms (Kansas City)
The Kitchen, Inc (Springfield)
Kennett Head Start (Kennett)
New Madrid County Family Resource
Center (New Madrid)
Serve the World Charities (Kansas City)
St. Louis Area Diaper Bank (St. Louis)
St. Teresa's Academy (Kansas City)
Pregnancy Resource Center of South Central
Missouri (Houston)
The Well Rural Resource (Iberia)
Westside Community Action Network
Center (Kansas City)

North Carolina

Babies Need Bottoms Diaper Bank
(Asheville)
Diaper Bank of North Carolina (Durham)

North Dakota

Project BEE – Dakota Diaper Pantry
(Minot)

Nevada

Baby's Bounty (Las Vegas)

New Jersey

The Makers Place, Inc. (Trenton)
Moms Helping Moms Foundation (Warren)
Summit Health Cares (Plainfield)

New Mexico

Junior League of Albuquerque

New York

Allied Foundation Diaper Bank (Melville)
Central New York Diaper Bank (Syracuse)
Every Bottom Covered, Inc (Buffalo)
Glennon Trade LLC (Latham)
The Westchester County Diaper Bank
(Westchester)

Ohio

Gem City Diaper Bank (Dayton)
Hannah's Treasure Chest (Centerville)
Project MKC (Youngstown)
Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank (Cincinnati)

Oregon

PDX Diaper Bank (Portland)

Pennsylvania

Center for Leadership Development and
Advocacy (Philadelphia)
Healthy Steps Diaper Bank (Harrisburg)
St. Joseph's Center (Scranton)
Pamper and Diaper My Baby (Philadelphia)

Puerto Rico

Banco de Alimentos Puerto Rico, Inc.
(Carolina)

South Carolina

Power In Changing (Columbia)

Tennessee

Bare Needs Diaper Bank at Mid-South Food
Bank (Memphis)
Elmahaba Center (Nashville)
Homeland Heart Birth & Wellness
Collective (Nashville)
KIPP Nashville

Legacy Mission Village (Nashville)
Nashville Diaper Connection (Nashville)
Shiloh Distribution Center (Lexington)
Sweet Cheeks Diaper Ministry (Memphis)

Texas

Austin Diaper Bank (Austin)
Galveston Diaper Bank (Galveston)
God's Lovely Butterflies Maternity Home
(Houston)
Hope Supply Co. (Dallas)
Houston Diaper Bank (Houston)
Texas Diaper Bank (San Antonio)

Utah

Little Lambs Foundation for Kids (Logan)
Utah Diaper Bank (Sandy)

Vermont

Aunt Dot's Place (Essex)
Capstone Community Action Head Start
(Barre)
Junior League of Champlain Valley Diaper
Bank (Burlington)
North End Food Pantry (Burlington)
ONE Mutual Aid (Burlington)
Parent Child Center of NCSS (St. Albans)
Project New Hope Inc. (White River
Junction)
Winooski Food Shelf (Winooski)

Washington

Babies of Homelessness (Bellevue)
Eastside Baby Corner (Issaquah)

Wisconsin

BabyCare of The Sheboygan Evangelical
Free Church (Sheboygan)
Diaper Depot & More (Kenosha)
Milwaukee Diaper Mission (Milwaukee)
Pregnancy Helpline Inc of Madison
Walworth County Food and Diaper Bank
(Elkhorn)

West Virginia

The Community Crossing (Welch)

Wyoming

Community Diaper Banks of Southwest
Wyoming (Rock Springs)