



National Diaper Bank Network

What is diaper need?

- Diaper need is the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to keep a baby clean, dry and healthy.
- Infants require up to 12 diapers per day, at a cost of \$80 to \$100 or more per month per baby.

How many families struggle with diaper need?

- 1 in 2 American families struggles with diaper need, according to [*The NDBN Diaper Check 2023: Diaper Insecurity among U.S. Children and Families*](#).
- 5 million infants and toddlers live in poor and low-income families.
- Government programs—including food stamps & WIC—do not provide funding for diapers.

What is the impact of diaper need?

- Diaper need harms the physical, mental and economic well-being of children and families.
- The poorest 20 percent of Americans with infants and toddlers spent nearly [14 percent of their after-tax income on diapers in 2014](#).
- Most child care centers require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers (four to six changes for most children). Without diapers, babies cannot participate in early childhood education. Without child care, many parents cannot go to work or school.

Do government programs cover the cost of diapers?

- Currently, no federal government program, including SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants and Children), provides funding for families to purchase diapers.
 - SNAP and WIC are nutrition-based programs that should not be expanded to include diapers or other non-food material basic necessities. Doing so would force more families to make impossible choices between buying diapers and buying groceries, or paying the electric bill, or filling a prescription.

What is a diaper bank?

- Diaper banks are nonprofit organizations that address diaper need by collecting, storing, and distributing free diapers to struggling families.
- Diaper banks and diaper pantries obtain diapers through local diaper drives, in-kind donations, and by purchasing diapers directly with donated funds.
- Many diaper banks are basic needs banks and provide other material necessities, like clothing, period products, and incontinence supplies, that individuals and families require to reach their full potential.

How to find diaper assistance in your area?

- To find a diaper bank in your area, and/or information on how to start a diaper bank, visit www.nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org.

What is the National Diaper Bank Network?

The National Diaper Bank Network leads (NDBN) a nationwide movement dedicated to helping individuals, children and families access the basic necessities they require to thrive and reach their full potential...including clean, dry diapers, period supplies and other basic needs. Launched in 2011 with the support of founding sponsor Huggies®, NDBN is dedicated to creating awareness, providing assistance and building community to #EndDiaperNeed in the US. Its active membership includes more than 300 basic needs banks serving local communities in all 50 US states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. More information on NDBN and diaper need is available at www.nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org, and on [Twitter](#) (@DiaperNetwork), [Instagram](#) (@DiaperNetwork) and [Facebook](#) (facebook.com/NationalDiaperBankNetwork).

Key Dates

- April 9 - 10, 2024 **NDBN Lobby Days** – Washington, D.C.
 - <https://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/lobby-day/>
- Sept. 23 – 29, 2024 **National Diaper Need Awareness Week** (13th annual event)
 - <https://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/awareness-week/>
- Oct. 23 - 25, 2024 **U.S. Conference on Poverty and Basic Needs** (13th annual event)
 - <https://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/conference-on-poverty-basic-needs/>

Media Contact

National Diaper Bank Network
Troy Moore
Office: (203) 295-7987
troy@diaperbanknetwork.org

Last Revised June 2024