

Diaper Distribution Pilot

South Puget



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 South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency \(SPIPA\)](#) was created in 1976 to study, prepare, and recommend Tribal plans and to aid in providing financial and technical assistance to participating Tribal communities. SPIPA created the SPIPA Diaper Distribution on Reservations Program to reduce economic barriers and increase the well-being and resiliency of Tribal communities.

Using the \$1.2 million awarded for the Diaper Distribution Pilot, SPIPA Diaper Distribution on Reservations Program will improve the health and economic outcomes for Tribal families, serving the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Nisqually Tribe, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, the Skokomish Tribe, and Squaxin Island Tribe. There are over 1,000 children enrolled as SPIPA Consortium Tribal Members. The program will provide diapers and diapering supplies by connecting to SPIPA's ongoing monthly food distribution program for Tribal communities. SPIPA will add diaper distribution to these drop-offs to encourage economies of scale.

Diaper Need in South Puget

- The consortium Tribes are located in some of the most economically distressed counties in Western Washington State. The unemployment rates in the targeted area in March 2020 was:
 - Mason County (Skokomish and Squaxin Island Tribes): **6.1%**
 - Grays Harbor County (Chehalis Tribe): **6.8%**
 - Pacific County (Shoalwater Bay Tribe): **6.7%**
 - Thurston County (Nisqually Tribe): **4.6%**
- **30%** of Native American families in Washington State with children under 18 live below the poverty line.

For more information about SPIPA, [visit their website](#) or contact [Debbie Gardipee, Executive Director](#).

For more information about the Diaper Distribution Pilot or OCS's seven anti-poverty programs, [visit the OCS website](#).