



The need:

One in every three Minnesota families cannot afford enough diapers for their children ages three and under. More than 75,000 families in Minnesota need help providing diapers for their babies.

- Parents cannot use WIC or food stamps to purchase diapers.
- Most daycare centers require a week's worth of disposable diapers in order to enroll, and families have to continue providing diapers each week. Diaper need impacts parents ability to go back to work.

Unmet diaper need leads to diaper rash and infections for little ones and depression and anxiety for parents. Studies show unmet diaper need creates stress and feelings of being overwhelmed and contributes to post-partum depression. An insufficient supply of diapers is not only a risk factor for poor infant and child health but also for maternal mental health, potentially diminishing maternal sense of competence and increasing maternal stress. Diaper need can ultimately lead to negative impacts on child health and development.

A recent study published in [Health Equity](#) found that diaper need is a recognized public health issue that is associated with poverty, food insecurity, and chronic illness. Overall, the study found that 56% of families who were food insecure also experienced diaper need. Parents struggling with diaper need report missing an average of four days of work per month. Additionally, with a sufficient supply of diapers, parents avoid missing work and are able to pursue greater economic opportunities. These factors combine to provide more than \$11 return on every \$1 invested in providing diapers to families in need. Studies indicate that hardship goes down and the emotional well-being of both caregivers and their children improves when families are given resources to meet their basic needs such as diaper need.

How Does the Diaper Bank of Minnesota help address the need?

The Diaper Bank of Minnesota is a 501(c)3 non-profit serving the Twin Cities metro area focused on three strategic priorities:

- Providing diapers and wipes to families in need
- Creating awareness in our community about diaper need and its impact on families
- Advocating for changes that will better support babies and their families

The Diaper Bank has distributed more than 2 million diapers since 2010 and is on a mission to dramatically increase the impact on the community. Goals include distributing one million diapers in 2023, and to be distributing five million diapers by 2027. The Diaper Bank of Minnesota receives no state or federal funding to help with meeting this need. The Diaper Bank of Minnesota is seeking ways to partner with the state government to close the gap of this critical need.

What can the State of Minnesota do to help address diaper need?

State governments across the country have aided diaper banks or other organizations for diaper distribution. There are currently 9 states that are providing funding for diaper distribution programs. By establishing and funding a competitive diaper distribution grant program at DHS, Minnesota can support thousands of hardworking families currently struggling to afford diapers for their little ones.