

Addressing **DIAPER** NEED in Louisville



WHAT IS DIAPER NEED?

Diaper need is the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to keep an infant or child clean, dry, and healthy.



Diapers cost on average \$80 a month per child. **One in 3 families lack adequate resources** to purchase sufficient diapers for their children.

HOW IS DIAPER NEED A BARRIER TO EMPLOYMENT?

Daycares require parents to send children with diapers.

Without diapers, women in particular are not able to utilize day care and **must forgo employment or utilize scarce resources** for diapers rather than for food, clothing, or shelter.

WHAT IS THE HEALTH IMPACT OF DIAPER NEED?

Diaper need is associated with **health problems for mother and child**, including postpartum depression, lack of attachment and bonding between mother and child, and diaper rash.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM IN LOUISVILLE AND KENTUCKY?

Kentucky only has one diaper bank, which is located in Louisville. They supply 100,000 diapers to 13 organizations, but are not able to fill need of those 13 organization and have to turn other organizations away.

WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ADDRESSING DIAPER NEED?

A 2018 study in Connecticut found that **for every \$1 spent in diaper need, family income rose by \$11**. Investing in diapers gets mothers back to work and results in positive health, development, and economic outcomes.

WHAT POLICY CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO ADDRESS DIAPER NEED?

On the federal level, **changes to food stamps rules** to allow benefits to be used on diapers would help address part of the need. TANF currently can be used for diapers, but there are often **insufficient funds to cover diaper need**.

Insurance companies can explore providing coverage for diapers, similar to changes in policy to cover breastfeeding pumps. Local governments, foundations, businesses, and private citizens can provide funding and resources to diaper banks.

How can I get involved in addressing diaper need in Louisville?

The Office for Women is convening a group to work on diaper need through awareness, advocacy, and legislation.

Contact the office at Gretchen.hunt@louisvilleky.gov or 502-574-3536.

You can also reach out to Louisville's Diaper Bank at St. Bernadette's to donate funds, diapers, or to host a diaper drive.

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintBernadetteLouisvilleDiaperBank>



OFFICE FOR
WOMEN

WORKING TO IMPROVE
THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN LOUISVILLE