



California Association of Diaper Banks

CAP OC Diaper Bank

Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County Diaper Bank

Diaper Bank at Central California Food Bank

Help a Mother Out

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank's Diaper Program

The Redwood Empire Food Bank's Diaper Program

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services

San Diego County Diaper Bank

Support the basic needs of families and people who menstruate:

Appropriate \$60M One-Time to Sustain and Expand the Diaper Bank Program and Menstrual Products Pilot

[More than a quarter of Californians live in or near poverty](#). Unfortunately, as inflation continues and pandemic-related assistance programs like CalFresh Emergency Allotments and Pandemic-EBT end, the ability to afford basic necessities will be difficult, if not impossible, for many households.

Period poverty is defined as [the struggle many low-income people who menstruate experience when trying to afford menstrual hygiene products](#). This cost represents an additional financial burden for people who are already struggling to make ends meet, leading to increased economic vulnerability.

Diaper need, defined as [the struggle to afford a sufficient supply of diapers to keep a child clean, dry, and healthy](#), can cause families to make impossible choices between their children's health and other urgent needs.

Thankfully, California already has proven and effective programs to address period poverty and diaper need, but in order for these programs to continue operating beyond 2024, and to serve additional communities, a one-time investment of \$60M is needed.

- The [California Association of Diaper Banks \(CADP\)](#) currently supports 8 organizations in distributing infant diapers (CAP Orange County, CAP San Bernardino, Central California Food Bank, Help A Mother Out, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services, Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank, Redwood Empire Food Bank)
- The [Menstrual Products Pilot \(MPP\)](#) currently supports 2 organizations in distributing menstrual products (Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank)

Our Request to Meet Community Needs:

- **Appropriate 60M (one-time) General Fund in 2023-2024 to:**
 - Sustain the eight state-funded diaper banks in California, two of which are also part of the Menstrual Products Pilot, and
 - Expand the current list of eight to include three more diaper banks, for a total of eleven, and
 - Provide funding for them ALL to distribute diapers, wipes, and menstrual products.

The Diaper Bank Program and Menstrual Products Pilot:

- Is efficient. These programs provide expensive basic needs at locations where families already take the time to travel for free food and other resources. Food banks broadly reach low-income communities in every corner of the state and have unique relationships, infrastructure, and trust to serve their neighbors even during disasters.
- Is equitable. Providing these products at organizations like food banks bridges the gap between those who already have access to menstrual products through schools and those who do not. These organizations serve a variety of populations across communities, such as unhoused families with young children not in school yet, and working individuals.
- Is successful. Since its inception in 2018, the Diaper Bank Program has assisted 744,566 families, distributed 130,065,545 diapers, and served 1,231,068 babies. The Menstrual Products Pilot currently serves two food banks across 145 partner agencies to over 10,000 people monthly.

Now is the Time for an Ongoing Commitment

We are grateful that Governor Newsom previously invested in the Menstrual Products Pilot and the California Association of Diaper Banks. We have seen their successful impact on low-income Californians and the need for these programs to continue. This year it is critical that California makes an ongoing investment in CADB and MPP to fight poverty, expand access to resources, support communities, and build toward a future where everyone has their necessities met.

“Menstrual products and diapers are necessities and the people we serve are so appreciative of not having to sacrifice other items in order to purchase menstrual products monthly.” - *Derek Polka, Policy and Research Manager, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank*

“In addition to supporting menstruators throughout San Diego County, the Period Supply Program has also brought a new level of period education to our region. This education has continued via news, radio, and print media and the program continues to be highly sought by many families” - *Wendy Starling, Director, North County Food Bank*

“Who wouldn’t want to support a program that ensures the health and well-being of the babies, mothers, and families in our society? This program prevents parents from gambling on risky hygiene practices so that they can also eat.” A partner organization shared this story. “Clients are so appreciative to receive diapers, with rising fuel costs and food costs parents should not have to choose between food and diapers, now we can provide both.” - *Amy Tobener-Talley, Strategic Partnerships Manager, The Redwood Empire Food Bank*