



California Association of Diaper Banks

2024-25 Budget Request for Diaper Bank Funding

Problem: State funding for free diapers and expires June 30 of this fiscal year, and the Governor's Budget does not propose funding for 2024-25. Without continued funding, California Diaper Bank Network will cease operations at the start of the fiscal year.

Proposal: The California Association of Diaper Banks is requesting one-time funding in the 2024-25 budget to continue operations and provide free diapers to families in need across California.

Background: The state began providing limited-term funding for diaper banks five years ago. The last round of funding included \$30 million one-time over three years in the 2021-22 budget, which expires June 30, 2024.

Asm. Ortega and Sen. Umberg have sponsored separate requests to fund the Diaper Bank network.

State funding has thus far allowed Diaper Banks to distribute 160 million diapers to over 1 million families with 1.6 million infants. Thanks this investment by the State, California leads the nation in funding for Diaper Banks—ranked at number one by the National Diaper Bank Network among the 10 other states which provide funding. However, without an extension of funding in this year's budget, free diaper distributions will cease to exist in California.

The cost of diapers is upwards of \$120 per month per child, and 57 percent of parents and caregivers reported missing an average of 4 days of school or work per month because they did not have enough diapers to drop their child off at childcare. [Research shows that 47 percent of families reported diaper need in 2023](#). Low-income families face the additional difficulty of not being able to afford diapers in bulk. The want of diapers can result in unhealthy conditions for infants, creating potentially greater costs in medical treatment for those who develop rashes or infections.

[With the ending of CalFresh Emergency Allotments and Pandemic-EBT that represented one third of the food safety net in 2021](#), combined with the soaring cost of food and end of many other COVID-era public supports, communities all over the California are seeing spikes in poverty. Across all age groups, household types, races and ethnicities, 12.4% were living in poverty in 2022, up from 7.8% in 2021. This is the largest single-year jump that has been documented in the last 50 years; a testament to how successful investments in anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs were in reducing poverty nationwide, and how important these supports were for families in California.

This proposal would make free diapers available in 39 counties, representing 83 percent California's residents. Diaper Banks have established the operational structure and become the community resource

- 47% of families report diaper need nationally in 2023 compared to 33% in 2010.
- 46% of families reported reducing other expenditures to afford diapers, with most of those households cutting back in multiple areas such as food (35%) and utilities (19%).
- 28% of those reporting diaper need skip meals to afford diapers.
- 66% of families with diaper need are low income.
- 57% of parents and caregivers reported missing an average of 4 days of school or work per month because they did not have enough diapers for childcare.

[National Diaper Bank Network](#)



California Association of Diaper Banks

for free diapers. If state funding expires and this structure collapses, it will take years to rebuild if/when future funding is made available.

For Questions, please contact Yajaira Lechuga (Yajaira.Lechuga@sen.ca.gov) with Senator Umberg's office, Stephanie Jerstle-Esparza (stephanie.jerstleesparza@asm.ca.gov), or Josh Gauger (jdg@hbeadvocacy.com), Matthew Hurley (mhurley@capoc.org) with the California Association of Diaper Banks.

Current & Additional Counties Potentially Served by \$23M Annual Diaper Bank Funding

