

Diapers for Babies

A little help for little ones



The Issue:

Diapers are a necessity for young children, but they consume a high % of a family budget.

There are no public programs that reduce the cost of diapers or provide diapers directly to families.

Parents can't use non-cash work support programs like SNAP and WIC to purchase diapers.



The Need:

Most childcare centers require parents to provide a one week supply of disposable diapers for each child. If parents can't afford diapers, they can't get childcare and go to work.

Lack of diapers contributes to maternal depression.


Lack of diapers increases illness and infection in young children.

More than 1 in 3 children in MN under age 5 live in low-income households

**\$70-\$80
per month**

Cost of diapers



 = 1 day of 6-10 diapers

- Food, Rent, Utilities
- Transportation
- Child care
- Diapers?**

One in three parents struggle to afford diapers

The Solution

Legislative:



- Amend proposed Food Shelf legislation to provide diapers to parents via food shelf network

Philanthropic:



- Collaborating with Diaper Bank of Minnesota



Results:

Providing diaper support:

- Allows children to attend child care and begin early childhood education
- Increases ability for parent to work while children are in daycare
- Reduces maternal depression and increase household happiness
- Reduces preventable health issues for babies and reduce medical costs
- Improves long-term outcomes for children
- Helps stabilize household expenses by providing more resources for basic needs



Makes babies really happy!



HUMPHREY SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Policy Fellows Project

Contact: Stephanie Hogenson
Phone: 612.978.7365
Email: sredquist@gmail.com