



Office of Community Services

Division of Community Discretionary and Demonstration Programs

Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-OCS-EDA-0024



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Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up to date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.



Step 1:

Review the Opportunity

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Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Office of Community Services

Division of Community Discretionary and Demonstration Programs

Addressing diaper needs of low-income eligible residents who are parents and their children by expanding existing diaper distribution services through a robust network of program partners.

Summary

The Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot (DDDRP) is a demonstration program that is designed to evaluate the implementation of expanded diaper distribution services.

The purpose is to test the ability of Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and other nonprofit community organizations to:

- Deliver a regular, sufficient supply of diapers to caregivers and children with low incomes, who are eligible residents.
- Improve these families' overall health and economic well-being.
- There are [five areas for activities](#):
 - Establishing diaper distribution partnerships with local organizations to operate and expand diaper distribution programs.
 - Providing training and technical assistance (T/TA) to help diaper distribution partners expand or strengthen existing diaper distribution programs.
 - Working with diaper distribution partners to buy diapers in bulk to stretch funding further.
 - Referring families who receive diapers to helpful services that promote family stability, employment, and economic self-sufficiency and mobility.
 - Participating fully in the federal evaluation of DDDRPP.



Have questions?
See [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:

Diaper Distribution
Demonstration and
Research Pilot

Opportunity number:

HHS-2026-ACF-OCS-
EDA-0024

Federal assistance listing:

93.647

NOFO version:

Original

Key dates

Application submission

deadline: September 15,
2026

Expected project start

date: November 1, 2026

See [intergovernmental](#)

[review](#) for other

submission processes that
may apply to this NOFO.

Funding details

Type: Cooperative agreement

Expected total program funding: \$29 million

Total expected awards: 14

Minimum award amount (award floor): \$500,000

Maximum award amount (award ceiling): \$2,000,000

This is full funding. We plan to fund a three-year project period with one budget period.

Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to federal funds availability.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

The following types of organizations are eligible to receive direct awards from DDDRP:

- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) state associations.
- CAAs
- Tribes and territories that were funded directly by CSBG in FY 2025.
- CSBG-funded territories.

If a state does not have a CSBG state association or the CSBG state association is not willing to apply for funding, a CAA from the state may apply with the support of a majority of all the CAAs in the state. Only one application from a CAA in the state will be accepted.

See [Additional eligibility documentation](#) for a list of eligible organizations and eligibility documentation requirements for submissions from an individual CAA.

Other eligibility criteria

Individuals (including sole proprietorships), federal entities, and foreign entities are not eligible to apply.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity.

Disqualifying factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Requests funding above the [award ceiling](#).
- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).
- Is from an individual (including a sole proprietorship), federal entity, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACF.

Applications from organizations that are not:

- CSBG state associations, tribes that were funded directly by CSBG in FY 2024, or CSBG-funded territories.
- OR**
- Individual CAAs that do not demonstrate project support from the majority of all CAAs in the state as described in Additional eligibility documentation.

Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last on-time submission.

Cost sharing

This program requires you to contribute 9% of the project's total cost under the authority of section 1110 of the [Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1310](#). You can calculate this cost-sharing requirement in two ways:

Method 1: Start with the federal share.

Calculation: Multiply the federal share by 9 and divide that product by 91.

For example: $(\$109,200 \times 9) / 91 = \$10,800$.

Method 2: Start with the total project cost.

Calculation: Multiply the total project cost by 9%.

For example: $\$120,000 \times 9\% = \$10,800$.

Types of cost sharing

You can meet your match requirement through any combination of:

- Cash contributed by your organization, partners, or other third parties.
- In-kind (non-cash) contributions from partners or other third parties.

Cost-sharing commitments

If awarded, you must provide the amount of cost-sharing funds you promised, even if you promised more than the required minimum. We put these commitments in the Notice of Award.

If you don't provide your promised amount, we may decrease the amount of funding we give you or use other enforcement actions.

You'll have to include your cost-sharing funds when you fill out your [federal financial reports](#).

Cost-sharing waiver

We waive cost sharing up to \$199,999 for awards to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands (except for the consolidated awards under [45 CFR part 97](#)). You must meet any amount of cost sharing over \$199,999. See [48 U.S.C. 1469a\(d\) Congressional declaration of policy respecting “Insular Areas.”](#)

Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

Statutory authority

This program is funded under the authority of section 1110 of the Social Security Act, [42 U.S.C. 1310](#).

Agency priorities

Required alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles

The recipient of this award must implement any funds awarded under this NOFO to effectuate program goals or agency priorities in accordance with [ACF's vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles](#) when authorized. Funded activities must advance ACF's vision of resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure children, youth, families, and communities, and support ACF's mission to foster health and well-being through effective, accountable, and compassionate human services when awarded in any programs that authorize these priorities.

Consistent with ACF's values, in carrying out any project that is funded under this NOFO, the recipient is required to adhere to the following principle:

1. **Program Integrity and Fiscal Stewardship:** Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions; maintain strong internal controls; and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

The recipient is also required to adhere to the following principles when consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

2. **Evidence-Based and Outcome-Focused Practices:** Design and deliver services using evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement.
3. **Partnership and Local Leadership:** Coordinate with state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, and tailor services to meet community-identified needs while respecting local decision-making authority.

In addition, in keeping with ACF's priorities, the recipient must administer any project that is awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives when consistent with the scope of the award and its activities in programs that are authorized to advance them:

4. **Family Stability and Child Well-Being:** Strengthen families, promote safe and stable home environments, and improve outcomes for children and youth through prevention-focused and developmentally appropriate services.
5. **Work, Self-Sufficiency, and Economic Mobility:** Support pathways to employment, job retention, and economic independence for individuals and

families, including through workforce development, education, and supportive services.

6. **High-quality early care and learning:** Where applicable, invest in high-quality early childhood programs that support school readiness, healthy development, and long-term success.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these values and priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation. Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other enforcement actions consistent with federal grant regulations found at [2 CFR Part 200](#) and the terms and conditions of this award.

Program description

Purpose

The purpose of DDDR is to test the ability of CAAs, local service agencies, and other local nonprofit organizations to provide a regular, sufficient supply of diapers [to eligible residents](#) with low incomes.

You will use the funding to help eligible residents with low incomes by:

- Expanding ongoing diaper distribution programs.
- Ensuring, in coordination with DDDR partners, that program participants receive a consistent supply of diapers on a regular basis.

DDDR advances ACF's priority of [promoting quality early learning environments and improved child outcomes](#). By providing families with a reliable supply of diapers and diapering essentials, the program supports the health, well-being, and healthy development of infants and toddlers. DDDR partners also connect families to coordinated services and resources, including early childhood education and care programs, helping to strengthen family stability and promote school readiness.

The evaluation is expected to measure the extent to which the DDDR improved the well-being of families receiving diapers. An evaluation accompanying the program will study the implementation of the DDDR and the impact of additional funding for diapers on participating families' health and economic wellbeing.

Background

The [American Public Health Association](#) reports that one in three families in the United States with diaper-age children report having an unmet diaper need.

“Diaper need” means not having enough diapers on a regular basis to keep a baby or toddler clean, dry, and healthy.

Objectives and program outcomes

Funding will strengthen existing diaper distribution programs. Enrolled families will be able to receive:

- Enough diapers on a regular basis.
- Referrals to services that promote family stability, employment, economic self-sufficiency and mobility.

You will be expected to report on the progress of short and intermediate outcomes in your quarterly reports.

Short-term and long-term outcomes should align with long-term outcomes.

The federal evaluation may use this information as part of the implementation and impact evaluation.

Short-term outcomes

- Diaper needs are met for all diapered children enrolled in pilot programs.
 - This means that enrolled participants receive enough diapers each month to keep their infant or toddler clean, dry, and healthy.
- Decreased rates of missed days for children enrolled in child care.
- Increased organizational capacity to provide diaper distribution services.
- Increased agency capacity to provide diapers and diapering supplies.

Intermediate outcomes

- Increased efficiency of diaper distribution programs. Examples include:
 - Reduced costs.
 - Reduced wait times for families between diaper giveaways.
- Individual/family reductions in certain health risks (e.g., diaper rash, bladder infections) and avoidable emergency department visits related to improved health of mothers, caretakers, and children.
- Increased rates of children enrolled in child care.
- Increased participation in training and higher education by those on the DDDRP caseload.

Long-term outcomes

- Community reductions in certain health issues (e.g., diaper rash, urinary tract infections) and avoidable emergency department visits, related to improved health of mothers, caretakers, and children.
- Increased stability and sustainability of organizational diaper distribution programs.
- Reduced economic stress.
- Improved maternal and caretakers' health and well-being (e.g., anxiety, depression).

Activities

Your diaper distribution project will reflect the following scope for activities:

- The ability to provide a consistent supply of diapers to families for at least one year. You should include a maximum of four implementation diaper distribution partners.

You will be required to design and implement your diaper distribution project so that it reflects the following principles:

- Distributing enough diapers and diapering supplies on a regular basis to enrolled families.
- Distribution to each enrolled family must be at least once every month, with regular, ongoing contact with enrolled families.
- Prioritizing distribution to children under the age of 5.

Programs must also:

- Aim to meet the average diaper needs of enrolled families.
- Have a strategy for estimating how many diapers families will need during a specific period of time (i.e., over the course of 1 month).
- Take into consideration the changing sizes and needs of children from month-to-month and adjust diaper supply orders accordingly.
- Not function as “one-time” or “drop-in” distribution centers.
 - Funding should nearly or entirely eliminate families’ diaper need for their period of enrollment.

Areas of activity

There are **five areas** of activity for the DDDRP.

You will be required to implement projects that have a thorough plan for value-added activities in each of the following five areas:

Building relationships with diaper distribution partners

The objective of these partnerships is to improve the capacity to provide comprehensive diaper distribution services to families with low incomes.

Unless you are working as a tribe, you must partner with up to four diaper distribution partners, including:

- At least one CAA.

AND

- One local social service agency or other nonprofit community organization with experience operating diaper distribution and related programs.

These partner organizations will work with you to expand or strengthen diaper distribution programs as part of the pilot project.

Diaper distribution partners will play an essential role in every part of the project, from planning the design to implementation.

Maintaining clear, accountable, and effective relationships with diaper distribution partners is key.

Previous cohorts of recipients have provided feedback that consistently defining, delivering, and monitoring diaper distribution activities across multiple partners and sites can be challenging. Partnerships with fewer numbers of partners may be easier to manage successfully. It is recommended that you include no more than **four** diaper distribution partners.

Partnerships must be documented through [Memoranda of Understanding \(MOUs\)](#) that delineate the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of all involved parties, and address the purpose and scope of partnerships. The MOUs should reflect shared goals and define each partner's contributions to achieving these objectives, including how you will monitor performance for accountability.

Developing effective MOUs

After award, you will craft MOUs that clearly outline the terms of diaper distribution partnerships, including the following key components:

- **Description of award and activities:** MOUs should include a brief overview of the DDDRP initiative and specify:
 - Project plans.
 - Timelines.
 - Objectives.
 - Expected contributions.
 - Roles and responsibilities of each subrecipient.
 - Activities each subrecipient will perform, when these activities will occur, and the criteria for measuring success and accountability.
- **Budgetary information:** You must provide guidance on budget allocations for staff time, administrative costs, and allowable expenses associated with the pilot program.
 - Estimations should be made in collaboration with subrecipients to ensure realistic budgeting, while adhering to federal cost principles.
- **Allowable costs:** Costs must be reasonable and necessary for the grant's success, as defined by federal regulations.
 - Unallowable costs include organized fundraising and construction expenses.

- **Communication:** MOUs should include a plan for regular communication and coordination between the you and the subrecipient.
- **Local family engagement:** Partners should incorporate family engagement into MOUs.
 - Engagement with eligible residents from the targeted communities is strongly encouraged in the design and implementation phases of the project.
 - Families with low incomes must be central to program development.
- **Economic mobility:** Partners should provide and track referrals to services that support family stability, work, self-sufficiency, economic mobility, high quality early care and learning as outlined in [Agency Priorities](#).
- **Evaluation:** Full participation in the federal evaluation is required as a part of this program.
 - All MOUs should include a clear commitment to engaging fully in the federal evaluation, which may include following protocols for random assignment to receive or not receive program services.

The MOU helps clearly explain what is expected and provides a framework for communication and reporting so that all parties understand their roles and responsibilities.

Strengthening diaper distribution programs

You and your diaper distribution partners (e.g., CAAs, local social service agencies, and other nonprofit organizations) will be responsible for growing and strengthening the existing network of diaper distribution programs in your state or region(s) of focus, ensuring that enrolled families have both:

- Enough diapers on a regular basis.
- Referrals to services that promote family stability, employment, economic self-sufficiency and mobility.

You will be responsible for working with your diaper distribution partners to establish a diaper distribution implementation strategy that:

- Welcomes new families, who are eligible residents, and maintains family enrollment in the diaper program.
- Facilitates referrals to services that promote family stability, employment, and economic self-sufficiency and mobility
- Estimates enough diapers, meaning the number of diapers required to meet family diaper need monthly.
- Ensures diapers are provided to enrolled families on a regular, (e.g., monthly) basis.

- Ensures adequate diaper sizes are provided.
- Ensures diapers are of sufficient quality.

You will be responsible for working with your diaper distribution partners to refer eligible residents to support services.

Through this partnership, you will:

- Set clear expectations for staff and partners to refer families to established support service agencies.
- Determine if residents are eligible for these services.
- Establish an approach for referring eligible residents to these providers.
- Establish a frequency for referring families to social-service providers at the time of enrollment.
- Track referrals to such agencies, including the date they were made, and whether the family acted upon referrals and received services.

Building infrastructure

You will strengthen and expand three different kinds of infrastructure as a part of your pilot program to purchase diapers in bulk and distribute them.

Physical infrastructure

You will:

- Assist your diaper distribution partners in the bulk purchase and efficient transportation of diapers and diapering supplies for the diaper distribution programs.
- Work with your diaper distribution partners to plan and coordinate diaper logistics according to the needs and resources of your service area, maximizing efficiency, effectiveness (including cost), and reach.
- Make the best use of economies of scale.
- Work with your diaper distribution partners to ensure there is sufficient physical space to store diapers and related supplies.

Staffing infrastructure

You will increase the capacity for the diaper distribution program to:

- Place and receive diaper orders.
- Break down diaper boxes.
- Repackage and deliver diapers to families
- Provide diapers each month to enrolled families.

Data infrastructure

You will ensure partner organizations have enough staff and data collection capacity to:

- Collect and track service receipt data for individual children and their caregivers (as opposed to household only), including date of receipt of supplies and how many supplies each family receives.
- Provide referrals to services that support family stability, work, self-sufficiency, economic mobility, high quality early care and learning.
- Administer federal evaluation materials to enrolled families.
- Report up on program outcomes at established intervals (i.e., on a quarterly basis).

Tribal recipients will work within their tribal government and/or tribal jurisdiction to coordinate bulk purchasing and efficient transportation of diapers and diapering supplies for diaper distribution programs.

Verifying Eligibility for Services

You must provide information to describe how you will verify eligibility for diaper services, including verification of eligible resident status.

Providing Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA)

You must provide diaper distribution partner organizations with T/TA related to the efficient and effective operation and expansion of diaper distribution programs.

Areas of T/TA related to program logistics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cost-effective diaper purchasing.
- Effective diaper delivery practices.
- Data tracking.
- Management and organization.
- Organizational and programmatic capacity-building efforts.
- Program quality.
- Expanding diaper distribution partnerships and increasing collaboration.

Evaluation

You will work closely with ACF's federal evaluation contractor(s) to evaluate this federal diaper distribution pilot. The evaluation is expected to measure the extent to which the DDRP improved the well-being of families receiving diapers.

You will follow all evaluation protocols established by ACF and its designee contractor(s). Fully participating in a federal evaluation may include:

- Supporting and complying with special data collection requirements.
- Providing additional administrative data on program participation or service receipt.
- Facilitating on-site meetings and observations, including interviews with program and diaper distribution partner managers and staff, as well as participants and other activities.

In addition, the federal evaluation may include:

- An evaluation of the DDRP's implementation.
- Longitudinal tracking of individual participant service provision and program participation via recurring data collection program and participant outcomes associated with DDRP.
- An examination of ongoing diaper distributions as an anti-poverty strategy.
- An assessment of the effectiveness of DDRP.

You will fully and actively support the federal evaluation and work with and encourage your partner organizations to do the same.

You can provide training and other support to your diaper distribution partners to ensure their full participation and to maximize participation in the program (e.g., survey completion).

You should ensure dedicated staff time for data management and coordination between diaper distribution partners and ACF federal evaluation lead.

Note: Consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), under this NOFO, the Office of Community Services (OCS) will not conduct, or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information covered by such Act, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. ACF will obtain OMB approval under PRA prior to collecting or requesting the collection of any information from more than nine individuals or entities.

DDDRP support of ACF priorities

DDDRP advances ACF's priorities of promoting quality early learning environments and improved child outcomes by addressing diaper needs, which directly impacts child health. DDRP also promotes work and self-sufficiency by providing diapers and contributing to the economic stability of the family. Previous experience administering similar projects.

Bonus points will be awarded to organizations that have:

- Previous experience administering a diaper distribution program with the infrastructure to provide diapers on a regular and consistent basis to enrolled families (e.g., no less than monthly).
- Previous experience participating in a research or evaluation project, or experience with longitudinal tracking of individual participant service provision and program participation via recurring data collection program and participant outcomes.

Cooperative agreement— Description of ACF's involvement

The responsibility for the control, direction, or performance of the project will be shared by OCS and the recipient. Through this cooperative agreement, OCS will maintain substantial involvement, working alongside recipients as an active partner throughout project implementation.

OCS program involvement will include the following:

- Providing program guidance and input, as appropriate;
- Approving all work plans and schedules;
- Reviewing and providing feedback on the activities, documentation, procedures, measures, and tools established and implemented for accomplishing the goals of the cooperative agreement throughout the duration of the initiative;
- Reviewing and providing feedback on activities, procedures, tools, measures, products, and written materials prior to external communication and dissemination on an ongoing basis;
- Providing support for recipients in meeting the requirements of the federal evaluation; and
- Participating in the presentation of results in publications.

Funding policies and limitations

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS adopted [2 CFR 200](#), with some exceptions included in [2 CFR 300](#). These regulations replace those in 45 CFR 75.

General policies

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
 - General policies Appropriation of funds.
 - General policies Satisfactory progress in meeting your project's objectives.
 - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
 - Funding more applicants.
 - Extending the period of performance.
 - Awarding supplemental funding.
- To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, you may not use funds from this NOFO for any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI and DEIA) activities. This includes:
 - DEI- or DEIA-related research.
 - Activities that discriminate or show preference based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected traits.
 - Any efforts that promote a "discriminatory equity ideology."
- To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, ACF will also not allow funds awarded under this NOFO to support any services or activities that inculcate or promote gender ideology.

For guidance on other types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, [2 CFR part 200](#).

Program-specific limitations and policies

Eligible Residents: For purposes of this NOFO, eligible residents must be lawfully present in the United States. Individuals lawfully present in the United States include:

- U.S. Citizens.
- Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR/Green Card holder).
- Asylee.
- Refugee.
- Paroled into the U.S.
- Granted an employment authorization document, also called a work permit or I-766.
- Individual with non-immigrant status including workers visas (such as H1, H-2A, H-2B), student visas, U-visa, T-visa, and other visas.
- Deferred Action Status.
- Cuban/Haitian entrant.
- Conditional entrant granted before 1980.
- Battered spouse, child, or parent.
- Victim of trafficking and their spouse, child, sibling, or parent.
- Special Immigrant Visa holders from Iraq or Afghanistan.
- Granted Withholding of Deportation or Withholding of Removal, under the immigration laws or under the Convention against Torture (CAT).
- Violence Against Women Act Self-Petitioners.
- Member of a federally-recognized Indian tribe or American Indian born in Canada.
- Citizens of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau who are living in one of the U.S. states or territories (referred to as Compact of Free Association, or COFA migrants).
- Lawful Temporary Resident.
- Temporary Protected Status.
- Deferred Enforced Departure.
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification.
- Family unity beneficiary, including those who are under section 1504 of the Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act Amendments.

If there are other immigration statuses or classifications that an applicant believes should be considered lawfully present, please list them in your application or if after award, to your ACF program officer.

We do not allow the following costs under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):

- Construction.
- Purchase of real property.
- Major renovation.
- Pre-award.

Funding provided through the DDDRP may be used primarily for the provision of diapers and diapering supplies, with up to 15% of awarded funds allowable for activities such as coordinating services, facilitating enrollment of applicants who are eligible residents, and conducting data collection.

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are those shared across multiple projects and not easily separated.

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

Method 1 — Approved rate. If you currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency, you may use that rate.

Method 2 — *De minimis* rate. If you do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate (see [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). This rate may be up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See the definition of MTDC ([2 CFR 200.1](#)). You can use this rate indefinitely.

You may not charge costs included in your indirect cost pool as direct costs.

Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. This means that you conduct funded activities and provide services necessary and integral to completing the project.

Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in [2 CFR 200.332](#) is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role is primarily a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

All subrecipients must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet [eligibility requirements](#) of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II.

For the Executive Level II salary, please see [the Office of Personnel Management information on executive and senior level employee pay](#).

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization.

This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Program income

If you earn any money from your award-supported project activities (known as program income), you must use it for the purposes and under the conditions of the award. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

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Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it at this NOFO's Grants.gov opportunity page. Then select the Package tab.

We recommend that you select the **Subscribe** button from the View Grant Opportunity page for this NOFO to get updates.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials or have other technical difficulties, including issues with application submission, [contact Grants.gov](#) for assistance.

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations \[PDF\]](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Need help? See [Contacts and Support](#).

Learn more

Visit [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#) on the ACF Grants page.



Step 3:

Build Your Application

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Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply. You will find the forms in Grants.gov.

File one

Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Table of contents	Yes
☐ Project summary	Yes
☐ Project narrative	Yes
☐ Line-item budget and budget narrative	Yes

File two: Attachments

Insert each in a single Other Attachments form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ ACF priorities alignment attestation	No
☐ Indirect cost agreement	Yes
☐ Legal proof of nonprofit status	Yes
☐ Additional eligibility documentation	No
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information (including organization chart)	Yes
☐ Third-party agreements	Yes
☐ Letters of support	Yes

Standard forms

Use each required form in Grants.gov.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Project Abstract Summary	No
☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	No
☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	No
☐ Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	No
☐ Key Contacts	No
☐ Grants.gov Lobbying form	No
☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	No

Application contents and format

You will submit two files plus the [standard forms](#) in the application package.

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application.

See [intergovernmental review](#) to find out if you need to make any other submissions.

Required format

Page limit for file one and file two combined: 75 pages

File format: Portable Document Format (PDF) is recommended, but not required. ACF supports the following file formats when you attach files to the Project Narrative Attachment form and the Other Attachments form:

Accepted file formats

- Adobe PDF (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Document formats

Paper size: 8 ½ inches x 11 inches

Margins: 1 inch all around

Language: English

If possible, include page numbers.

Do not include external links to information you want reviewers to assess because reviewers will score the application solely on information provided in the application.

Fonts

Font: Times New Roman

Color: Black

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes and text in tables and graphics may be 10-point.

Spacing

Table of contents: Must be single-spaced

Project summary: Must be single-spaced

Project narrative: Must be double-spaced

Line-item budget and budget narrative: Can be single-spaced

Attachments: Can be single-spaced

Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

See [disqualifying factors](#) to understand what may disqualify your application from consideration.

File one: Narratives

To submit file one, you will use the Project Narrative Attachment form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes:

- Table of contents.
- Project summary, one page.
- Project narrative.
- Line-item budget and budget narrative.

Table of contents

At the beginning of file one, insert a table of contents that guides a reader through the contents of both files in your application. If possible, include links to the relevant content in file one.

Project summary

Provide a one-page summary of the project description. Do not cross-reference to other parts of your application. The summary must include:

- At the top, the project title, applicant name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and any website URL.
- A brief description of the project, including the needs and population you will address, your proposed services or research questions.

Project narrative

The project narrative is where you address all your proposed activities. It is a critical section of your application, which we evaluate using [merit review criteria](#) and rank based on application scores.

Remember that substance and measurable outcomes are more important than length. We are particularly interested in project narratives that convey strategies for achieving intended performance.

In it, you must:

- Explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in [the program description section](#).
- Make sure your narrative is clear, concise, and complete.
- Use cross-referencing rather than repetition.
- Be sure to include any required supporting documents noted. You generally provide these in your [attachments](#).
- Use the headings and order of the sections that follow.

Purpose and need

Geographic location

Provide the precise physical location of your project and boundaries of the area you will serve. If you will include any subrecipients in your project that will serve specific geographic areas include their locations as well.

Need for assistance

Identify the problems you plan to solve. These problems could be physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, etc. To do so:

- Demonstrate the need, including the nature and scope of the problem.
- Provide, as appropriate, supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials, in your attachments.
- Include any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments. You may refer to them in the endnotes or footnotes of your application.
- Use demographic data and participant or beneficiary information where you can.

Objectives

State your main objectives and any sub-objectives. Address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of this program and describe how you will achieve the objectives.

Response

Approach

Outline your action plan. Describe the scope of your proposed project and describe in detail how you will accomplish it. Account for all functions or activities you identify in your application.

Explain potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing your project goals. Explain the strategies you will use to address them.

There are [five areas of activity for DDDRP](#). Describe a thorough plan for each activity as described in the program description section.

Building relationships with diaper distribution partners

- Describe a plan to build relationships with Diaper Distribution Partners.
- For non-tribal applicants, demonstrate that you will partner with at least one Community Action Agency (CAA) and one local social service and/or other nonprofit community organization with experience operating diaper distribution programs.
- Include draft MOUs that reflect key components listed in the Program Description.

Strengthening diaper distribution programs

- Describe how the proposed project will strengthen diaper distribution programs.
- Demonstrate how the project will build and strengthen the existing network of diaper distribution programs in your state or region.
- Address how the project will accomplish the following:
 - Provide consistent distribution of quality diapers in the correct sizes to enrolled families.
 - Provide services to enrolled families, on a consistent basis for at least twelve months.
 - Refer families to services that promote family stability, employment, and economic self-sufficiency and mobility, as outlined in Agency Priorities.
 - Identify methodology for estimating diaper need for participating families on a consistent basis.
 - For example, a matrix may be established using child's age in months multiplied by an identified number of diapers per day needed at that age.
 - The number of diapers needed per day should be based on data and referenced in the description.

Building infrastructure

- Describe how the project will strengthen and expand the types of infrastructure as outlined in the Areas of Activity section of the Program Description.
 - **Physical Infrastructure:** Describes facilities for bulk purchasing, warehousing, and distribution logistics.

- **Staffing Infrastructure:** Describes sufficient staffing for family enrollment, order management, outcomes assessments, and monthly distributions.
- **Data Infrastructure:** Describes capabilities to adhere to federal reporting standards and coordinate data collection efforts across subrecipients to ensure high quality reporting.
 - Capabilities include aggregating data across subrecipients without duplicating individuals or families served, as well as longitudinal data collection from beneficiaries to track outcomes for children, caregivers, and families enrolled in the program – and for those not enrolled in the program.
 - Capacity to report information on program implementation, participant characteristics, and participant outcomes, including tracking:
 - Supplies distributed, unduplicated numbers of beneficiaries and families served, and referrals to services by type.
 - Expenditures on diapers, diapering supplies, diaper storage and transportation, personnel and benefits, staff travel, and indirect costs.
 - Child, caregiver, and family structure characteristics on the same individual children and their caregivers over time (as opposed to household only).
 - Changes in family diaper need, improvements in child diaper health.

Verifying eligibility for services

You must provide information to describe how you will verify eligibility for diaper services, including verification of eligible resident status.

Providing Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA)

Demonstrate your capacity and plans to deliver T/TA to diaper distribution partner organizations as outlined in Program Description.

Project timeline and milestones

Provide a timeline for your project that includes milestones. To do so:

- Organize the information by task and subtask, showing related milestones.
- Provide monthly or quarterly quantitative projections for tasks you plan to complete and by when. For example, provide the number of people you plan to serve or the number of a certain activity you plan to complete by a specific date.
- Provide target dates for activities you can't quantify.
- Cover the full period of performance in your timeline.

Logic model

You must submit a logic model for designing, managing, and evaluating the project. A logic model is a diagram that:

- Presents how inputs drive activities to produce outputs, outcomes, and the ultimate goals of the proposed project.
- Explains the links among project elements.
- Targets the identified objectives and goals of the project.

While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include the connections between:

- Inputs such as additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, and budget.
- Target population, such as the individuals to be served or identified needs.
- Activities, mechanisms, and processes such as evidence-based practices, best practices, approach, key intervention and evaluation components, and continuous quality improvement efforts.
- Outputs, which include the immediate and direct results of program activities.
- Outcomes, which include the short- and long-term results you expect the project to achieve. These are typically described as changes in people or systems.
- Project goals, such as overarching objectives and reasons for proposing the project.
- Align the logic model with the [short-term, intermediate, and long-term outcomes](#).

Impact

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe how you will evaluate your project's performance and how it will contribute to continuous quality improvement. This plan must describe:

- How you will monitor ongoing activities and progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs might include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes, or other resources.
- How you will measure the inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the resulting information to improve your funded activities.
- Any processes that support overall data quality.
- The organizational systems and processes you will use to track performance outcomes.

- How your organization will collect and manage data in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. This might include assigned skilled staff, data management software, and data integrity.
- Any potential obstacles to implementing the project performance evaluation and how you will address them.
- A timeline for how you will review information from the performance evaluation and apply it to your ongoing project.
- Describe the general methods and strategies you will use to ensure your full participation and the full participation of your diaper distribution partners in the federal evaluation activities, as described in the Evaluation section in Approach.
- Include positive attestations that you commit to working closely with ACF to coordinate, assist, and carryout evaluation activities as directed by ACF or ACF's evaluation contractor(s), including how you will ensure the full participation of the diaper distribution partners.
- Describe your capacity to collaborate with ACF to facilitate federal evaluation.
- This includes your capacity to implement an evaluation model that includes:
 - Welcoming of new program participants to the recipients and sub-recipients for enrollment into DDDR, participants not already receiving services from the recipient and/or sub-recipient.
 - Longitudinal tracking of individual participant service provision and program participation via recurring data collection, relative to their peers that are **not** benefiting from the diaper distribution program.
 - Dedicated recipient and sub-recipient staff for data management and coordination between diaper distribution partners and impact study lead.

Expected outcomes

Identify the outcomes you plan to achieve from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall program as described in the [program description section](#). If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Resources and capabilities

Organizational capacity

Provide the following information for your full project team, including the applicant organization and any cooperating partners, contractors, and subrecipients:

- Provide evidence that your team has the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.

- Describe your team's experience (including any partnering organizations) with administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.
- Provide evidence that your team, including partnering organizations, has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively.
- You must disclose your plan to enter into subaward agreements. If planning subawards, describe the work each subrecipient will complete.
 - Identify the organizations with which you intend to partner. Describe the reasons these organizations were chosen as partners, the organizations' experience operating diaper distribution (and related) programs, the organizations' current diaper distribution (and related) programs (including important support services), and how they will expand or strengthen these programs as part of their pilot projects.
- Describe the existing infrastructure (e.g., the existing diaper distribution programs operated by partners), identify gaps, and present a plan for how you and your diaper distribution partners intend to work together.
- Describe your team's ability (including any partnering organizations) to collect and securely store data on program participants, their diaper service needs, and their receipt of diaper services.
 - If you have experience doing this longitudinally (collecting repeated information on the same individual, over time), please include this.
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your [attachments](#).

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

You must ensure proper award oversight. The regulation that governs this oversight is [2 CFR part 200](#). It includes standards for:

- Financial and program management.
- Property management.
- Procurement.
- Performance and financial monitoring and reporting.
- Subrecipient monitoring and management.
- Record retention and access.
- Remedies for noncompliance.
- Prior written approval.

Describe your framework to make sure that your federal funds and activities have proper oversight. Include:

- A description of the governance, policies and procedures, and systems you use for record-keeping and financial management.
- A description of the procedures you use to identify and mitigate risks and issues. These might include audit findings, continuous performance assessment findings, and monitoring.
- The key staff who will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program staff and any partners or subrecipients.

Protection of sensitive or confidential information

Describe how you will collect and safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information that is considered sensitive. Make sure your approach is consistent with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality. Provide:

- The methods and systems you will use to make sure that you properly handle confidential and sensitive information, including information from any subrecipients or contractors.
- A plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the period of performance.

For more information, see [2 CFR 200.303\(e\)](#).

Line-item budget and budget narrative

The line-item budget and budget justification support the information you provide in the Budget Information Standard Form SF-424A.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supplies](#) in [2 CFR 200.1](#). The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or \$10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

Justify the costs you ask for and provide detail, including calculations for the “object class categories” in the Budget Information Standard Form. You will provide this information for the full period of performance. See information on [funding periods](#).

As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are necessary, reasonable, allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- How you calculate your costs in ways that are clear and repeatable.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See the [funding policies and limitations](#).
- Please also review the Standard Form instructions.

To create your line-item budget and justification, see [detailed budget instructions on our website](#).

In general, you must:

- Indicate the method you will use for your indirect cost rate. See the [indirect costs](#) section for further information.
- Include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail necessary for the calculation to be duplicated.
- For any cost sharing, include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.
- For applicants planning to use subawards, if your subaward budget is more than 50% of total direct costs, justify why you are subawarding that portion of the project. Explain:
 - How you plan to maintain a substantive role in the project.
 - Why you cannot achieve your goals without the subrecipients' participation.
- Lay out a program budget/budget narrative that clearly shows a proposed timeline that is consistent with your project narrative and work schedule.
- Demonstrate the required cost share in their program budget.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

Clearly identify any salary or other proprietary information or personally identifiable information within your application. Identification will ensure this information is not shared with reviewers. Note on page 1 of the attachments file (file two) where the information to be redacted is located.

If you have an [exemption for a paper submission](#), you can protect salary information and any proprietary information by placing that information only in the original application. You can remove the information from the copies, keeping summary information.

Bonus Points

Previous experience administering similar projects

Bonus points will be awarded to organizations that demonstrate the following:

- Previous experience administering a diaper distribution program with the infrastructure to provide diapers on a regular and consistent basis to enrolled families (e.g., no less than monthly).
- Previous experience participating in a research or evaluation project, and/or experience with longitudinal tracking of individual participant service provision

and program participation via recurring data collection program and participant outcomes.

File two: Attachments

To submit file two, you will use the Other Attachments form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes all attachments.

ACF priorities alignment attestation

Note: Not included in the page limit. This should be submitted with the application or before award.

You must self-certify that you will align with the ACF priorities that are relevant to this funding opportunity, as identified in both the Program description and *Step 4*, under Merit review process, Scoring criteria, *Alignment with ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles*, elements 2 and 3. You must provide the following on your organization's letterhead.

I hereby attest and certify that:

_____ (Applicant Name) affirms its commitment to supporting and advancing ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), consistent with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and Administration priorities.

Insert Date of Signature:

Print Name and Title of the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR):

Signature of AOR:

Indirect cost agreement

If you include indirect costs in your budget using an approved rate, include a copy of your current agreement approved by your [cognizant agency for indirect costs](#). If you use the *de minimis* rate, you do not need to submit this attachment.

See the [indirect costs](#) section for more information.

Legal proof of nonprofit status

If your organization is a nonprofit, you need to attach proof. We will accept any of the following:

- A reference to your listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations.
- A copy of a current tax exemption certificate from the IRS.
- A letter from your state's tax department, attorney general, or another appropriate state official saying that your group is a nonprofit and that none of your net earnings go to private shareholders or others.
- A certified copy of your certificate of incorporation or similar document. This document must show that your group is a nonprofit.
- Any of these documents for a parent organization. Also include a statement signed by an official of the parent group that your organization is a nonprofit affiliate.

Attach proof of nonprofit status in the *Appendices* file of the application submission.

Additional eligibility documentation

If a state does not have an active CSBG state association or the CSBG state association is not willing to apply for funding, an individual CAA from the state may apply with the support of a majority of all the CAAs in the state.

Documentation should identify:

- The total number of CAAs in the state.
- The number of CAAs in the state that support the project.
- The name of each CAA that supports the project along with a signed letter of support or meeting minutes to demonstrate support.
 - This documentation does not count towards the page limit.

Only one application from a CAA in the state will be accepted.

Below are links to the list of eligible entities for this funding opportunity, HHS-2026-ACF-OCS-EDA-0024:

- [CSBG State Associations](#)
- [CSBG-funded Territories](#)
- [Tribes that were funded directly by CSBG in FY 2025](#)

Organizational capacity supporting information

You must attach the following information to support the information in your [organizational capacity](#) section:

- Organizational charts, including all partners.

- Resumes, biographical sketches, or curricula vitae for all key personnel.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.
- List of your board of directors.
- Copy or description of your organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.
- Child-care licenses and other documentation of professional accreditation.
- Information on compliance with federal, state, and local government standards.
- Evidence that the applicant organization, and any partnering organizations, have relevant experience and expertise with administration, development, implementation, management, and evaluation of programs similar to that offered under this funding opportunity.

Third-party agreements

You must submit agreements with all third parties involved in the project. Third parties include subrecipients, contractors, and other cooperating entities. Third-party agreements include letters of commitment, MOUs, and memoranda of agreement. Tribal applicants are not required to submit third-party agreements from external partner agencies. We do not consider general letters of support to be third-party agreements.

Any such agreement must:

- Describe each party's roles and responsibilities for project activities.
- Describe the support and resources that the third party is committing to the proposed project.
- Be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments.
- Detail work schedules and estimated compensation with an understanding that the parties will negotiate a final agreement after award.
- Include positive attestations that the diaper distribution partners commit to participating in the evaluation activities as directed by ACF's Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) and/or OPRE's evaluation contractor(s).

Letters of support

Attach statements from community, public, or commercial leaders that support your project. At minimum, each letter of support must identify the person writing the letter, the organization they represent, the date, and their reasons for supporting the project.

Standard forms

You will need to complete some other required standard forms other than those in files one and two. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and their instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Forms	Submission requirement
Project Abstract Summary	With the application.
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With the application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With the application.
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	With the application.
Key Contacts	With the application.
Grants.gov Lobbying form	With the application or before award.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable based on instructions, with the application or before award.
Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	With the application. Cite your primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.



Step 4:

Learn About Review and Award

In this step

Application review	<u>46</u>
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Application review

Initial review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the [disqualification factors section](#). If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review (scoring) phase.

We will let you know if your application is disqualified within 30 days of the application deadline. You won't receive any notice from ACF if your application failed Grants.gov validation checks.

If you submit more than two files in addition to your forms, we will remove the extra files. We will let you know if this happens.

We will also remove blurred or illegible pages and any file formats that are not supported.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

If your application fails to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements, we will adjust your application by removing page(s) from the application. We will remove the pages before the merit review and will not send them to reviewers.

If we do so, we will send you a letter after we make awards to notify you that we amended your application.

Merit review process

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The panel members use the criteria shown in each section of the project narrative and in the line-item budget and budget narrative section.

Our reviewers typically are not federal employees. See the section on [proprietary and personally identifiable information](#).

Criteria summary

Criterion	Total number of points = 105
1. Purpose and need	12 points
2. Response	50 points
3. Impact	10 points
4. Resources and capabilities	8 points
5. Budget and budget narrative/justification	10 points
6. ACF priority alignment	10 points
7. Bonus points	5 points

Scoring criteria

1. Purpose and need

Maximum points: 12

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the nature and scope of the issues surrounding diaper need among families with low incomes generally as well as within the geographic area of service contemplated by the application.
(0 to 3 points)
- Use both quantitative and qualitative data, to identify the need for diapers and diapering supplies among families with low incomes within the proposed geographic area of service. (0 to 2 points)
- Outline, in a clear and concise manner, major goals and objectives for the project that are attainable and able to address and respond to the stated need.
(0 to 3 points)
- Include proposed short term, intermediate and long-term project outcomes that are clear, realistic, quantifiable, and measurable. (0 to 4 points)

2. Response

Maximum points: 50

The reviewer will assess how well you will:

- **Build Relationships with Partners: 12 points**

- Identify a variety of up to four diaper distribution partners (e.g., local service organizations) including at least one CAA and one local social services agency, or other nonprofit community organizations with experience operating a diaper distribution program. For the purposes of tribal applicants, diaper distribution partners can be defined as local diaper distribution programs operating within the structure of the tribal government and/or the jurisdiction of the tribe.) **(0 to 3 points)**
- Describe a well-developed and effective plan to work with diaper distribution partner(s) to enhance the capacity to provide comprehensive diaper distribution services to families with low incomes. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Identify how applicant and diaper distribution partners will fully support program implementation, including details to describe roles and responsibilities for family recruitment, maintaining family engagement, collecting data, and providing referrals to support services, as applicable. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Include draft MOUs or letters of commitment for diaper distribution partners that demonstrate a clear commitment to the project, explicitly state their commitment to full participation in the federal evaluation, and include a description of grant activities, budgetary information, allowable costs, and communication protocols, and all other components listed under. **(0 to 3 points)**

- **Strengthen diaper distribution programs: 12 Points**

- Demonstrate that the diaper distribution program will provide participating families with a regular (no less than monthly) supply of diapers and related diaper supplies that is enough to meet diaper need, with attention to adequate sizing and quality. **(0 to 4 points)**
- Demonstrate a plan to offer coordinated services or to refer families to services that promote family stability, employment, and self-sufficiency and mobility **(0 to 4 points)**
- Includes methodology for estimating the number of diapers required to meet family diaper need monthly. **(0 to 4 points)**

- **Build infrastructure: 20 Points**

- **Physical infrastructure**

- Describe a plan that maximizes economies of scale to ensure efficient and effective purchase and storage that is related to the number of families being served. **(0 to 3 points)**
 - Outline a reasonable and realistic schedule for the purchase, allocation, transport, and distribution of diapers and diaper supplies that meets the diaper needs of the families being served by the program. The plan accounts for various geographic areas to be served by the project. **(0 to 2 points)**
 - Demonstrates that the applicant considered the range of ages, sizes, and needs (e.g., hypoallergenic products) of the beneficiaries in their logistics schedule. **(0 to 3 points)**

- **Staffing infrastructure**

- Include a staffing plan that demonstrates that there are sufficient staff at the grant recipient and partner sites to carry out the activities included in the application. Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. **(0 to 5 points)**

- **Data infrastructure**

- Demonstrate the data collection capacity and plan to collect and track service receipt data, including date of receipt for supplies, referrals and support services received. **(0 to 3 points)**
 - Describe the current data infrastructure that will be used to report up on program outcomes at established intervals. **(0 to 2 points)**
 - Include information about the data and information systems used to track service receipt and whether those systems support tracking information for individual children and their caregivers (as opposed to household only). **(0 to 2 points)**

- **Provide T/TA: 6 Points**

- Include a plan that fully describes how the applicant will identify and provide partners with T/TA related to the efficient and effective operation and expansion of their diaper distribution programs. The plan addresses coordinating and tracking referrals to support services. **(0 to 2 points)**
 - The T/TA plan describes applicants capacity for delivering T/TA. **(0 to 2 points)**
 - Verifying eligibility for services: Includes information to describe how the applicant will verify eligibility for services, including verification of eligible resident status. **(0 to 2 points)**

3. Impact

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Demonstrate sufficient data collection capacity to: **(0 to 5 points)**
 - Follow the same program participant and child through the specified time period.
 - Track what services they receive and how often they interact with the program.
 - Collect data from program participants on a recurring basis.
- Include information about the staffing arrangement that will support participation in evaluation activities. **(0 to 5 points)**
 - Describe what role these staff currently play, and the proportion of their time they can devote to evaluation activities.

4. Resources and capabilities

Maximum points: 8

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Demonstrate that you have the experience and expertise to carry out the activities proposed and that the proposed project director(s), key staff, and/or consultants have the background, experience, and other qualifications required to carry out their designated roles. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Identify the diaper distribution partners you will partner with have the collective experience, resources, expertise, and authority to achieve the project outcomes. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Demonstrate that diaper distribution partners have capacity to refer program beneficiaries to internally or externally provided services and accurately track these referrals through a management information system. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Demonstrate your team's ability (including any partnering organizations) to collect and securely store data on program participants, their service needs, and their receipt of services, including longitudinally (collecting repeated information on the same individual, over time). **(0 to 2 points)**

5. Budget and budget narrative/justification

Maximum points: 10

The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Demonstrate a clear and easy to understand budget and a budget narrative/justification that are: **(0 to 6 points)**
 - Aligned and consistent with the project proposal.
 - Provide detailed justifications for the amounts requested.
 - Are reasonable and feasible with respect to the resources requested for each activity.
 - Outline reasonable time commitments for the proposed Project Director and other key personnel that are sufficient to assure proper direction, management, and timely completion of the project.
 - Propose salaries for the Project Director and other key project personnel that are reasonable and justified.
 - Outline costs that are program-related and comparable to the types and ranges of activities and services to be conducted, and the expected goals and objectives.
 - Include budget allocations for staff time, administrative costs, and allowable expenses associated with the pilot program.
- Demonstrate that estimations have been or will be made in collaboration with subrecipients to ensure realistic budgeting, while adhering to federal cost principles. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Demonstrate a commitment and a description of the required cost sharing equal to a minimum of 9% of the total cost of the project. **(0 to 2 points)**

6. Alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles (Up to 10 points)

ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles inform programmatic and administrative expectations under this funding opportunity.

Applicants must demonstrate alignment by describing how the proposed project advances relevant ACF priorities through program design and evaluation. Applicants should clearly identify which ACF priorities are relevant and explain how those priorities are reflected in the proposed approach. Applicants are encouraged to provide examples of prior experiences that can show alignment efforts that have already been achieved. Examples should describe strategies used, measurable results (if available), and lessons learned.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to organize their response using the three criteria below.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application demonstrates clear, specific, and measurable connections between ACF priorities and the proposed project. Scores will reflect the strength, clarity, and specificity of those connections.

Scoring Considerations for the next three criteria:

- **High-scoring applications** will demonstrate clear understanding, intentional integration, and measurable alignment with ACF priorities across all three criteria.
- **Moderate-scoring applications** may reference ACF priorities but provide limited specificity, uneven integration, or minimal connection to measurable outcomes.
- **Low-scoring applications** will show minimal or unclear understanding of ACF priorities and lack meaningful connection to program design or performance.

1. Demonstrated Review and Understanding (Up to 2 Points)

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has reviewed ACF's Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles and explains their relevance to the proposed project.

Reviewers will look for:

- Identification of specific ACF priorities (not general or vague references).
- A clear explanation of how those priorities relate to the proposed project.

2. Operationalization in Program Design and Implementation (Up to 3 Points)

The degree to which the following one or more ACF priorities are translated into specific elements of the proposed project:

- Promoting quality early learning environments and improved child outcomes.

Reviewers will assess if the applicant:

- Connects identified ACF priorities to program design, service delivery, and implementation.
- Demonstrates how priorities influence partnerships, staffing, or key program decisions.
- Provides clear, actionable examples of how alignment will be carried out in practice.

3. Integration into Performance and Continuous Improvement (Up to 5 points)

The extent to which the following one or more ACF priorities are reflected in measurable outcomes and ongoing program improvement:

- Promoting quality early learning environments and improved child outcomes.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application:

- Aligns performance measures and expected outcomes with identified priorities.
- Includes evaluation methods or performance indicators that reflect those priorities.
- Describes how data will be used for continuous quality improvement.

7. Bonus points: Previous experience administering similar projects

Maximum points: 5

The reviewer will assess how well you demonstrate:

- Previous experience administering a diaper distribution program with the infrastructure to provide diapers on a regular and consistent basis to enrolled families (e.g., no less than monthly). **(0 to 3 points)**
- Previous experience participating in a research or evaluation project, or experience with longitudinal tracking of individual participant service provision and program participation via recurring data collection program and participant outcomes. **(0 to 2 points)**

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices.

We use [SAM.gov](#) Responsibility/Qualification and Exclusions to check this history for all awards likely to be over \$250,000.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [2 CFR 200.206](#).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review and scoring results, including the ten points for Alignment with *ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles* to the extent permitted by law. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- Organizations serving emerging, unserved, or underserved populations.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects by considering geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant.
- The application's compliance with this NOFO's prohibition on using funds awarded under this NOFO to support DEI and DEIA activities, to the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders.
- Funding Preference for Alignment with Agency Priorities. Before final funding decisions are made, division leadership will review awards for consistency with applicable laws and alignment with [agency priorities](#).

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Decide not to fund a project with high start-up costs or unreasonably high operating costs.
- Choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.

- Designate your application as “approved but unfunded” if it was successful but there was not sufficient funding to make an award. You may receive funding if additional funds become available within the fiscal year.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

We will not fund:

- A [disqualified application](#).
- An incomplete application.

Award notices

If you are successful, we will email or transmit through our grant systems a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you have not received an award. Project costs that you incur before you receive a NoA are at your risk.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award. The award incorporates the requirements of the program and funding authorities, the grant regulations, the GPS, and the NOFO.

If you want to know more about NoA contents, go to [Notice of Award at ACF's website](#).



Step 5:

Submit Your Application

In this step

Application submission and deadlines

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Application submission and deadlines

Application

Deadline

Due on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

- For electronic submissions, the due time is 11:59 p.m. ET.
- If you receive an exemption from electronic submission, the due time is 4:30 p.m. ET. See the section on [exemptions for paper submissions](#).

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept only the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or mail service.

Grants.gov submission

You must submit your application through Grants.gov unless we give you an exemption for a paper submission. See information on [getting registered](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. We encourage you to leave yourself plenty of time to upload documents.

See [Contacts and Support](#) if you need help.

Issues with federal systems

If you experience a systems issue with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to [ACF's Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues \[PDF\]](#).

Exemptions for paper submissions

We need to give you an exemption before you can apply on paper. See the [ACF Policy for Requesting an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission \[PDF\]](#).

Once we have approved your exemption, download your forms package under the Package tab in Grants.gov.

To submit your application, mail it to:

Janice Realeza

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Grants Management

HHS-2026-ACF-OCS-EDA-0024

1401 Mercantile Lane, Suite 401

Largo, MD 20774

Follow these requirements when you submit your paper application:

- Print your application and all copies one-sided.
- Submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all required forms.
- Submit both the original and additional copies in a single package. If you plan to submit more than one application under this NOFO or others, you must submit them separately. Clearly label each package with the NOFO title and funding opportunity number.
- Your authorized organization official must sign the application. The original application must include an original signature.

Intergovernmental review

[Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#) does not apply to this NOFO. You do not need to take any action.



Step 6:

Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

Post-award requirements and administration [61](#)

Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you'll need to follow if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award, including the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions](#) and, if applicable, any program-specific terms and conditions. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The rules listed in [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, effective October 1, 2025. These replace those in 45 CFR 75, with some exceptions in [2 CFR 300](#).
- The HHS [Grants Policy Statement \(GPS\)](#). This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements and the [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#).
- [45 CFR Part 87 Appendix B, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations](#). This appendix explains the obligations of and protections for faith-based organizations applying for grants.

Reporting

As a recipient, you will have to submit performance and financial reports. To learn more about reporting, see [Reporting at the ACF website](#).

- Performance Report Form: **ACF-OGM-PPR**
 - Performance report frequency: Quarterly
- DDDRP Beneficiary Report Form: **ACF-0970-0642** (exp. April 30, 2028)
 - Financial report frequency: Semiannually
- Financial Report Form: **SF-425 FFR**
 - Financial report frequency: Quarterly



Contacts and Support

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Agency contacts

Program

Jessica Hale

ocstech@reviewops.org

1-855-792-6551

Grants management

Janica Realeza

ocstech@reviewops.org

1-855-792-6551

Help with systems

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. Hold on to your ticket number.

- Phone: 1-800-518-4726
- Email: support@grants.gov

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can:

- Call 866-606-8220.
- Live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

Reference websites

- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)
- [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#)
- [Grants.gov](#)
- [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#)
- [Grants.gov Accessibility Information](#)
- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#)
- [United States Code \(U.S.C.\)](#)
- [Award Terms and Conditions](#) (see also the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions \[PDF\]](#))
- [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#)
- [ACF Property Guidance](#)
- [ACF Diaper Distribution Programs: Overview of Programs and Available Research](#)
- [DDDRP](#)

Paperwork Reduction Act disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the project description (project narrative, line-item budget, and justification) is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information.

The project description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires April 30, 2029. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Modifications

Modification Description	Updated Date