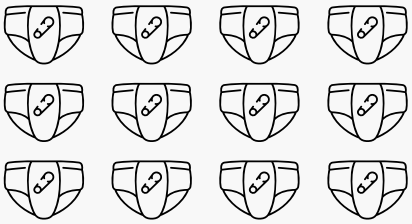
Cradles to Crayons
END CLOTHING INSECURITY

Clothing Insecurity and Diaper Need

Diaper need (n): the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to keep an infant or child clean, dry, and healthy

Every $1 diaper banks spend distributing diapers creates $2 in savings for communities

At Cradles to Crayons®, we're committed to a future where one day, all children have the clothing essentials they need to thrive—**and diapers are one of the most crucial parts to dressing a young child. Yet 2 in 5 families lack the resources to afford the high cost of diapers,** making diaper need a reality for too many families across the United States.



Did You Know?

The average infant wears up to 12 diapers a day—that's 360 diapers a month!

There are no federal diaper support programs, and only a handful of state-based supports specific to preventing diaper need, as SNAP and WIC benefits cannot be applied to diaper purchases.

Diaper need costs $4.5 billion dollars in healthcare expenses and lost wages every year, or $660 per instance of diaper insecurity.

Diapers are often a requirement for leaving children with child care providers:

- Households with diaper need are 21 times more likely to miss work due to not have the needed diapers for child care
- Caregivers who missed work in the past 30 days due to an insufficient supply of diapers missed an average of 5.3 days of work

*Parents With Diaper Need Report That:

- **34% skipped meals** last month to afford diapers
- **45%** skipped bill payments to afford diapers
- **61%** struggled or were unable to pay medical bills in the past year
- **37% reported symptoms of generalized anxiety** disorder, three times as many as parents without diaper need

FY26 Diapers Distributed

Studies find that providing a steady supply of just 50 diapers a month alleviates caregiver stress and work barriers, improves a child's physical well-being and ability to learn and play, and allows families to thrive.

Boston	4,304,950
Philadelphia	2,565,000
Chicago	1,721,300
Cradles to Crayons	8,591,250