



## Kentucky should...

support access to clean diapers for families with babies and young children

Diapers are essential for infant and toddler health and hygiene, yet nearly half of U.S households with young children experience diaper insecurity and struggle to afford enough diapers to keep their children clean and healthy.



The cost of diapers places a considerable strain on household budgets, costing families at least \$1,000 annually for every one child in diapers, and families in Kentucky must also pay the 6% state sales tax when purchasing diapers.



When families struggle to afford diapers, parents and caregivers may have to change diapers less frequently or reuse dirty diapers. Among families with diaper need, 35% had to seek medical care for a UTI and 33% for colic.



Most child care centers require families to provide a daily supply of disposable diapers. One in four parents/caregivers with diaper need reported having to miss work in the past year because they did not have enough diapers to drop their child off at child care.

### **Increasing access to clean diapers for families is associated with:**

- Improved infant and child health
- Improved caregiver mental health
- Improved caregiver work attendance
- Increased family income
- Reduced medical expenses

### **Diaper need is associated with:**

- Increased pediatric medical visits for diaper rash and urinary tract infections (UTI)
- Parental stress and anxiety, which can contribute to poor infant and child health
- Adverse Childhood Experiences, such as maternal depression

### **Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Policy Solution:**

Support the basic needs of families by investing in addressing diaper need.

### **Kentucky can take steps to address the diaper needs of families including:**

- ✓ Follow the lead of several states like Indiana, Florida, and Texas that have eliminated the state sales tax on diapers.
- ✓ Dedicate state funds to support community-based organizations helping to address diaper need across the state.
- ✓ Increase access to clean diapers for low-income families through existing benefit programs like Medicaid and WIC.