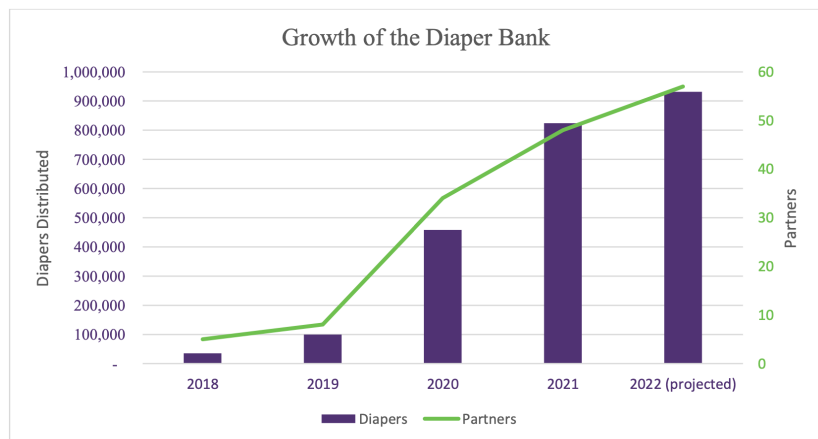


## Defining Diaper Need

- Diaper need is the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to keep an infant or child clean, dry, and healthy
- Diaper need impacts one in three U.S. families
- It can cost up to \$80 per month to diaper a child
- No state or federal safety-net program specifically supports the purchase of diapers. In fact, many of these programs don't allow spending money on diapers
- Without diapers, infants and toddlers cannot attend childcare. Without childcare, parents cannot go to work or school

## History of the JLCV Diaper Bank

In 2018, the Diaper Bank was established by a group of volunteers through the Junior League of Champlain Valley (JLCV) whose members saw a need that was not being met by existing government subsidies or other support programs. Partnering with five organizations and relying primarily on community diaper drives, JLCV succeeded in distributing more than 35,000 diapers and diapering supplies in the Chittenden County area the first year.



Four years later, the JLCV Diaper Bank is now working statewide, partnering with 57 organizations and has distributed more than 2.3 million diapers in total. Since the onset of COVID, JLCV has secured some state funding for the procurement of diapers. Storage and distribution costs are borne by the League, as are the responsibilities of administering the program. The League also continues to fundraise to meet demand.



## Why a State-Sponsored Program is Needed

The growth of this program has demonstrated the ongoing need of Vermont families for access to diapers and diapering supplies, and that a volunteer-based system is no longer adequate or sustainable.

## Overview of the Solution | Proposal

JLCV is proposing a staffed, state-sponsored Diaper Bank to make permanent the efforts of a 100% volunteer organization. This option is the most cost-effective way of distributing diapers to families in need and leverages existing resources to establish a simple and sustainable model with a high degree of continuity from the existing program. The cost for FY24 is estimated to be \$380,000. We are requesting base state funding.

## Frequently Asked Questions | State-Sponsored Diaper Bank

### **Does this proposal include an expansion of JLCV's existing services?**

No. The proposed program will essentially be the same program as that created by the JLCV, but with three important differences: (1) operate as an entity separate and apart from the JLCV; (2) have two paid staffers in lieu of 100% volunteer labor; and (3) include a reliable funding source for discounted, bulk-purchased diapers and administrative costs.

### **Is diaper need being met in Vermont?**

No. Although JLCV distributed over 879,000 diapers to 57 partners in 2022, we estimate that these efforts reach only 23% of Vermont children in need of assistance. Based on a recent survey of agency partners, just 50% of distributing agencies stated that the JLCV Diaper Bank was meeting all of the diapering support needs of their community.

### **Can the JLCV continue their level of support?**

No. JLCV is a 100% volunteer organization based in Chittenden County. Demand for diapers has outpaced JLCV's ability to effectively administer and organize the Diaper Bank, which was never intended to operate statewide. Now is the time to establish a permanent solution to address diaper need in Vermont that can carry on JLCV's work.

### **Were other models for addressing diaper need statewide considered?**

Yes. After reviewing several alternatives, a stakeholder working group including representatives from the JLCV, Parent Child Center Network, Vermont Foodbank, and Vermont Department of Children and Families identified state funding for a diaper bank as the most feasible and cost effective way to address diaper need. This proposal builds on the existing program and we estimate that it could distribute more than 1.25 million diapers a year for approximately \$380,000.



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