



2023 Partner Handbook and Agreement

Organization mission

The Athens Area Diaper Bank strives to eradicate diaper need by providing diapers to low-income families in the Athens area, while raising public awareness of diaper need and its impact. AADB provides diapers to families through partner agencies that serve in Clarke, Barrow, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Madison, and Jackson counties.

Diaper need and its impact

Diapers are expensive, costing over \$1,000 every year, yet government assistance programs like food stamps, Medicaid, or WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) do not help families cover the cost of diapers. This means that 1 in 3 families in the United States struggle with “diaper need,” which is an inability to provide a consistent supply of diapers for one’s child. Families experiencing diaper need often resort to re-using dirty diapers or keeping a baby in a dirty diaper far too long, which can lead to diaper rash and infections. In addition, low-income families must spend money on diapers instead of other necessities like food, rent, or clothing. Finally, without a clean supply of diapers, families cannot send their children to daycare. Without daycare, parents can’t go to work or school. With over 8,000 children at risk of experiencing diaper need in Athens area, many families in our community struggle with diaper need.

More information and stats on diaper need can be found on the website for the National Diaper Bank Network (www.nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org), of which we are proud members.

Our partners

We rely on partner agencies to distribute diapers to families in need. We never distribute diapers directly to families. Our partner agency model allows us to keep our overhead low, but most importantly it means that families have easy access to diapers all over our community and at places where they receive other services. Our partner agency model also allows us to serve families experiencing a wide variety of circumstances and situations. Some partners serve families dealing with financial emergencies and hardship, while others serve foster families, survivors of domestic violence, moms recovering from addiction, etc. We appreciate our partners and the amazing work they do throughout the community. We consider ourselves lucky to be a small part of each partner’s mission.

Our requirements

Each of our partner agencies must be a Sec. 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, government agency, or religious organization. Partner agencies must submit an application each year to receive diapers from AADB. Within this application, we ask for information about the organization’s mission and population served, as well as information about how AADB diapers would be distributed, how many children will need diapers, ability to serve as walk-in requests for diapers, etc.

Upon approval of their AADB partnership, each partner agency is given an allotment for how many children their organization can request diapers for each month. This number will also place each partner in a different Partnership Tier (below). Each Tier has different requirements, which serve to reinforce our partnership and ensure that support can flow in both directions. Many diaper banks around the country charge service fees to their partner agencies, so our modest requirements are an alternative to that. Partners can communicate with AADB as each of their requirements are met throughout the year, and AADB will track and follow up with partners to ensure participation.

Tier 1: 1-20 children/month
Value of diapers/year: \$200-4,000
Requirements:

- Social Media or newsletter acknowledge at least 2 times in 2023
- Participation in biannual diaper impact surveys for your organization

Tier 2: 21-50 children/month
Value of diapers/year: \$4,200-9,990
Requirements:

- Social Media or newsletter acknowledge at least 2 times in 2023
- Participation in biannual diaper impact surveys for your organization
- Diaper drive by your organization to benefit Athens Area Diaper Bank OR one group volunteer shift with us during the year

Tier 3: 50+ children/month
Value of diapers/year: \$10,100
Requirements:

- Social Media or newsletter acknowledge at least 2 times in 2023
- Participation in biannual diaper impact surveys for your organization
- Diaper drive by your organization to benefit Athens Area Diaper Bank OR one group volunteer shift with us during the year
- Client surveys once/year (at least 50 participants)

All organizations must sign our partner agreement, which lists specific and common-sense parameters to receive our diapers. This packet and the partner agreement should be shared with all staff and volunteers that assist with distributing diapers within a partner organization. This agreement must be renewed at the beginning of each calendar year. Violations of the partner agreement can result in termination of the partnership.

Our diapers

The Athens Area Diaper Bank receives diapers from two sources: diaper drives and purchasing. We encourage community members, organizations, churches, etc. to collect diapers throughout the year, but especially during Diaper Need Awareness Week each fall. We also purchase diapers through low-cost suppliers that give steep discounts to National Diaper Bank Network members, allowing us to stock our shelves according to our partners’ needs.

For distribution, our diapers and pullups are bundled into packs of 25 diapers by our volunteer force. These packs are a convenient size to store and hand out to families. **We provide 2 packs of diapers (1 pack of pullups) for each child each month.** This 50-diapers-per-child-per-month is the standard that the National Diaper Bank Network suggests to fill a family's "diaper gap". There are a few exceptions to this: 1) organizations that are shelters will receive an increased allotment; 2) if a partner only wants one pack of diapers/child (usually space issues, logistics, etc); and 3) overnight diapers are bundled into packs of 10, and distributed as 1 pack/month.

Diaper distribution

AADB prepares requests for over 40,000 diapers each month. Diaper distribution occurs on the first and third Friday of each month, from 10am-12pm, from our facility. Exceptions to this will be communicated ahead of time, or with an individual partner. Our distribution process is as follows:

1. Partners place their order via the Human Essentials website no later than midnight on the Tuesday before the desired Friday pickup. Instructions on setting up your Human Essentials account and placing an order will be provided.
 - a. If you place your order after midnight on Tuesday, AADB will not be able to have volunteers pack your order for Friday distribution. However, your organization may opt to come to the Diaper Bank and pack the order. Please note that this requires that each person sign a Volunteer Waiver.
2. AADB confirms the diaper request and Human Essentials sends a confirmation email to the partner, confirming the pickup date and order details. AADB may adjust the request depending on product availability.
3. On the Wednesday before distribution, AADB volunteers pack the diaper orders into reusable nylon bags (big laundry bags). We ask our partners to return these bags at their next diaper pickup.
4. On distribution day, partners pick up diapers from our location at 130 Conway Drive, Suite E, Bogart, Georgia 30622.
5. Partners must communicate if circumstances prevent them from coming during our distribution window. If a partner does not pick up their order within a week of the distribution date, AADB will re-shelve the order.

Partnership/Distribution FAQ

Do we need to pick up diapers every month?

No! Many partners will order a lot of diapers one month, and then we won't see them again for two or three months. The monthly allotment that you are approved to receive each month is an average. You can always use Human Essentials to monitor how many diapers your organization has received

What happens if we forget our nylon distribution bags?

Oh no! If you forget to return the bags, we'll pack only dirty diapers for you next time. Just kidding! Those bags cost money that we'd rather spend on diapers instead. Please make a good faith effort to bring them back so we don't have to order more nylon bags.

Why can't you deliver to us?

In 2022, we partnered with over 30 organizations at over 60 sites in Athens and surrounding counties. We simply aren't equipped to offer delivery. However, we work hard to be as efficient as possible to minimize your time and effort. We know it can be difficult to step away from your organization's good work to come out to us, and we appreciate it.

Can we refer families to you for diapers?

Please, no. We never distribute diapers directly to families. You might meet a family that needs diapers but cannot receive services from your organization. If that is the case, please direct them to our partner list on our website (under "Need Diapers?" tab) to find out who they can approach for help. Feel free to reach out to us for guidance.

What about wipes?

We currently provide wipes to sheltering organizations only.

What about adult diapers?

We occasionally receive adult diapers as donations. We make those available on a first-come-first-serve basis on distribution days. Please let us know if this is a frequent need for your clients, so we can keep you in mind when we receive large donations.

What about sizes for special needs children and adults?

Here's where our collective voice is important: Medicaid covers diapers for children over the age of 4 with a medical diagnosis. Please educate your clients about this important resource. Occasionally, a child without a medical diagnosis may still need overnight diapers or other products. Please communicate if this is a need for your clients, and we can provide them.

How can other organizations become partners?

Interested organizations can contact us for more information. We will have quarterly Zoom sessions for anyone interested in becoming a partner agency, followed by an application and approval process.

More information

General email: diapers@athensareadiapers.com

Executive Director Erin Campbell: erin@athensareadiapers.com

Operations Manager Beth Staton: beth.staton@athensareadiapers.com

Special Programs Manager Kathy Bailey: kathy.bailey@athensareadiapers.com

Development and Grants Specialist Chaz Ripley: chaz.ripley@athensareadiapers.com

Website: www.athensareadiaperbank.com

Social media: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

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Facility hours: 9-12 Monday, Wednesday, Friday