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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) Receives Award  
for Federal Diaper Distribution Program**

**(Middletown)** – The Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) to provide diapers to families in need across the state. The Diaper Distribution Pilot Program was established to expand existing diaper distribution programs while connecting clients to agencies that provide other wrap-around services (i.e. job training, educational support, Early Head Start, housing services, and more) for individuals and families with low income. According to Janet Alfano, CEO of CT Diaper bank “Community action agency’s have been long time and critical partners to ensure that families have access to diapers and many other basic necessities. The Diaper Bank of Connecticut team is proud to be working alongside Connecticut’s Community Action Agencies, and grateful for the support of national legislative champions like Rosa DeLauro, to ensure that families have what they need to thrive.”

Studies have shown that diapers can cost 8% of a person’s total income if they are making the federal minimum wage, and parents and caregivers who don’t have enough diapers often can’t send their children to child care. This leads to missed days at work and school, missed early education opportunities for toddlers, and an increased likelihood of painful rashes and infections. A lack of diapers is not only a public health issue: it is an obstacle to economic mobility for families with low incomes.

In Connecticut, 12.7% of children live below the poverty line and more than 1 in 4 children have parents who lack secure employment. Using the \$1,200,000 awarded through this program CAFCA plans to distribute over 1.3 million diapers and supplies, ensuring that families who are clients of Connecticut Community Action Agencies have enough diapers to keep their children safe, healthy and clean and allow caregivers to maintain steady employment. CAFCA Interim Executive Director Rhonda Evans says, “This program provides some economic relief to vulnerable children and families in CT while allowing our agencies to connect them to other resources that can help them through these challenging times.”

CAFCA will partner with the Diaper Bank of Connecticut, Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, Connecticut food share and six local Community Action Agencies to carry out this initiative. Dr. Marlo Greponne is the executive director of HRA of New Britain, one

of the six Community Action Agencies that will be a part of this initiative. Dr. Greponne says “HRA is grateful to be a part of this project. We've seen the need for relief firsthand while working with economically challenged households with babies who are struggling to meet the diapering needs of their children.”

For more information on the Diaper Distribution Program and how to find your local CAA, visit [www.cafca.org](http://www.cafca.org) or call the Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA) at (860) 832-9438.

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