



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Seattle Foundation Awards Babies of Homelessness Second Round of \$25,000 from COVID-19 Response Fund**

KING AND SNOHOMISH COUNTIES -- Before the coronavirus outbreak, one in three U.S. families could not afford diapers. After the outbreak and throughout the pandemic, millions of Americans have lost their jobs—and faced eviction, debt, and food insecurity. The need for diapers is exacerbated by these compounding factors and as a result diaper banks like Babies of Homelessness struggle to meet demand.

Diaper need is an often-overlooked and invisible crisis. Ask any social worker or nonprofit and they will tell you they need diapers. Diaper requests at Babies of Homelessness have *tripled* and Babies of Homelessness has grown its partner network, as a supplier to over 25 agencies. Meanwhile, the diaper bank worries if in-kind and monetary donations can maintain supply in a time when people and funders are less apt or able to donate.

Joanne Samuel Goldblum, chief executive and founder of the National Diaper Bank Network, says there are so many people, "who do not have enough money to meet their basic needs, and what we've found is that diaper need is a window into poverty."

Regional philanthropic efforts to address poverty include the COVID-19 Response Fund. The fund is managed by the Seattle Foundation and provides grants to community-based organizations (CBOs) that are working on the frontlines to support the region's most vulnerable communities. Supported by more than 60 fund partners and thousands of individuals and families, it complements the work of public health officials and expands local capacity to address the many needs created by the pandemic.

In Phase Three, a total of \$9.9 million was allocated through 283 grants to CBOs supporting vulnerable workers and families—people who face long-standing economic inequities and disparities due to racism that have been made worse by the current crisis. Seattle Foundation prioritized BIPOC communities because while everyone has been impacted by the pandemic, not all have felt those impacts equally.

Babies of Homelessness will use this grant to continue delivering diapers and essentials to families and partner agencies in South King County where little or no ongoing support for diapers exists.

To learn more about the Seattle Foundation: <https://www.seattlefoundation.org>

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