

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Geminus Head Start Partners with Indiana Community Action Association
to Help Families in Need of Diapers**

LAKE AND PORTER COUNTIES, IND. – The Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA) has partnered with Geminus Head Start to provide diapers to Early Head Start families in need. This partnership is a result of the Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot (DDDRP) grant within the Office of Community Services (OCS) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The current program is set to run through September 2026, but IN-CAA and the Indiana Diaper Bank are optimistic that they will be able to continue their partnership and diaper delivery beyond that period.

Over 5 million children in the U.S. are affected by diaper need, or the lack of sufficient diapers. This can lead to significant stress on families with young children. Addressing diaper need is fundamental for supporting the physical well-being of children, as well as the mental health of caregivers. For families with low incomes, the financial burden of purchasing diapers is particularly heavy, ranging from \$945 to \$1,500 annually for children under four. Additionally, a lack of diapers can affect a caregiver's ability to work. The program also connects families in need of job search and training support to resources in their community that can help them get employed or upskilled.

The partnership of Geminus Head Start and IN-CAA strives to alleviate diaper need stressors for Early Head Start families. By supplying diapers and education resources to Early Head Start families, Geminus also supports its wrap-around approach to whole-person care.

Diapers are distributed monthly at Geminus Early Head Start locations and Child Care Partnership sites in northwest Indiana. Families receive 50 diapers per period to help decrease diaper need.

"We were so grateful to have these diapers. I just used my last one," an Early Head Start parent shared.

"I was just trying to figure out how I was going to buy more, so thank you," another recipient said.

Collection and distribution of diapers is made possible by the Indiana Diaper Bank, a nonprofit organization that aims to eliminate diaper need in the community by providing a reliable and adequate supply of diapering essentials.

"Indiana Diaper Bank is excited to expand diaper distribution throughout northwest Indiana through our partnership with IN-CAA and Geminus Head Start. Together, we are increasing access to diapers for families and helping ensure that every child has the clean diapers they need to be happy and healthy," said Ashley Burns, president and CEO of Indiana Diaper Bank.

For more information about the Diaper Distribution Demonstration & Research Pilot (DDDRP), visit dddrp-hhs-acf.hub.arcgis.com.

For more information on Geminus Head Start, visit geminus.care/headstart.

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About Geminus

Geminus partners with community-based health care providers, social service organizations and early childhood education programs to help increase access to high-quality social health care for children and families across Northern Indiana. Geminus is a member of the Regional Care Group.

About Indiana Community Action Association (IN-CAA)

The Indiana Community Action Association works to strengthen the capacity of Indiana's Community Action Agencies to address community needs and poverty. IN-CAA's members (the Indiana Community Action Network) are Indiana's 22 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which serve all of Indiana's 92 counties.