

To: Finance and Operations (F & O) Committee
From: Mike Carter, Operations Dept.
Date: October 28, 2024
Re: In-Kind Donation for Menstrual Equity Project

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Board of Education of two donations made to support the Menstrual Equity Project.

In 2023, the Connecticut General Assembly passed updated legislation requiring public schools to supply a range of menstrual products in school restrooms. This law went into effect on September 1, 2024. However, this mandate was unfunded.

Due to the criticality and urgency of this mandate, the notification process to the Board of Education Finance and Operations (F & O) was delayed as the program had to be in place by September 1, 2024. A brief overview was made to the F & O Committee in August 2024.

New Haven was fortunate to receive assistance from two organizations in supplying products to stock the school restrooms for students in Grades 3-12. The two organizations are listed below:

- The Diaper Bank of Connecticut (DBCT) started providing products in October 2024 and will restock supplies every quarter for the next two years. The value of the donation during this time is estimated at \$ 450,000.
- Amazon donated to Nathan Hale School this year and supplies feminine products on a monthly basis to the school. The estimated value of this donation is \$ 60,000. Many of these products are stored at the school as well as a NHPS facility to distribute as needed to schools as needed.

The total value of these two donations is well over \$ 510,000. After Board of Education review and approval, signed donation agreements will be sent to the Board of Alders.

Sincerely,



Michael Carter
Operations Dept.

Period Supply Distribution

To Public Schools

Jenny Kohl, Project Manager



thediaperbank
of Connecticut

CHANGE FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Agenda:

- **Who We Are**
- **Menstrual Equity Law**
- **Partnership Logistics & What to Expect**
- **Q & A**



Meet Our Period Supply Distribution Team



Jenny Kohl
Project Manager
Main Point of Contact



Janet Stolfi Alfano
CEO



Yury Maciel-Andrews
Program Manager

Who We Are

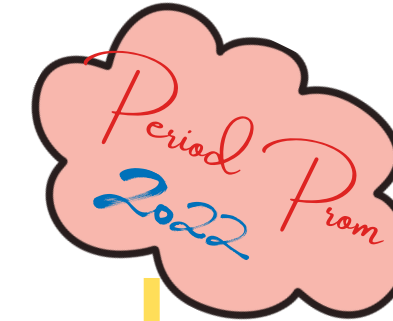
The Diaper Bank of Connecticut (DBCT)
has been working since 2004 (20 years) to ensure that the
community has access to the basic needs that are essential
throughout individuals' lifespans.

DBCT is the CT Chapter of the Alliance for Period Supplies.





150K



2008

DBCT's first distribution of period supplies.



2014

DBCT worked with Yale New Haven MOMS Partnership on basic needs bags, including period supplies.



2016

Budget implementer passed by the CGA, which included language to end the tax on period supplies.



2018

No tax on period supplies goes into effect



2020

S.B. 140: An Act Requiring Free Feminine Hygiene Products in Middle and High School Student Bathrooms, however, the session was cut short due to Covid



2020

DBCT establishes the BEAM program; period product distribution



2021

DBCT distributes over 150,000 period supplies throughout the state.



2022

Rep. Kate Farrar convened the Menstrual Equity Coalition and introduced The Menstrual Equity Bill



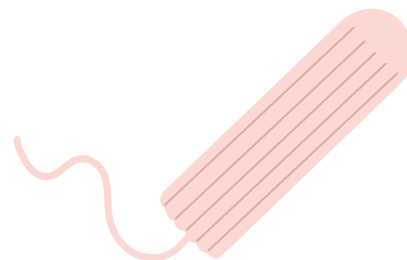
2022

The Menstrual Equity Bill passed!



2024

DBCT awarded the Menstrual Equity Grant to distribute period supplies in public schools



CT Menstrual Equity Law Effective September 1st, 2024

Purpose of The Law

To increase access to menstrual products in public schools, state colleges, state universities, and community colleges, prisons and jails, and shelters

This Bill Includes

Menstrual products be provided at no cost to individuals who menstruate who are:

- **Attending public schools grades 3-12**
- Housed in prisons and jails
- Housed in emergency shelters
- Attending state colleges, state universities, & community colleges

Public School Requirements

Public Schools serving 3rd graders - 12th graders are required to supply accessible period supplies in,

- All Women's Restrooms
- Any All-Gender Restrooms
- At Least One Men's Restroom per School.

What's Included in the Funding

Funding Attached to Law

When this law passed in 2022, there was an allocation of funds (**\$1.95 Million**) attached to assist schools with the **highest level of need** during the implementation process. The Department of Public Health has outlined that these funds will be used to bulk order supplies and distribute physical products directly to qualifying schools.

What's Included in the Funding

- Product
- Shipping & Delivery
- Program evaluation

What's Not Included in the Funding

- Dispensers

Product Storage and Dispensing

Schools may consider coin free dispensers, include:

- Aunt Flow, Evogen, Wildflower Flow, and Uline

***** Dispensers are often specific to certain brands of product, schools should select carefully when researching dispensers or opting for alternative ways to stock products*

Schools may consider low-cost alternatives to dispensers, including:

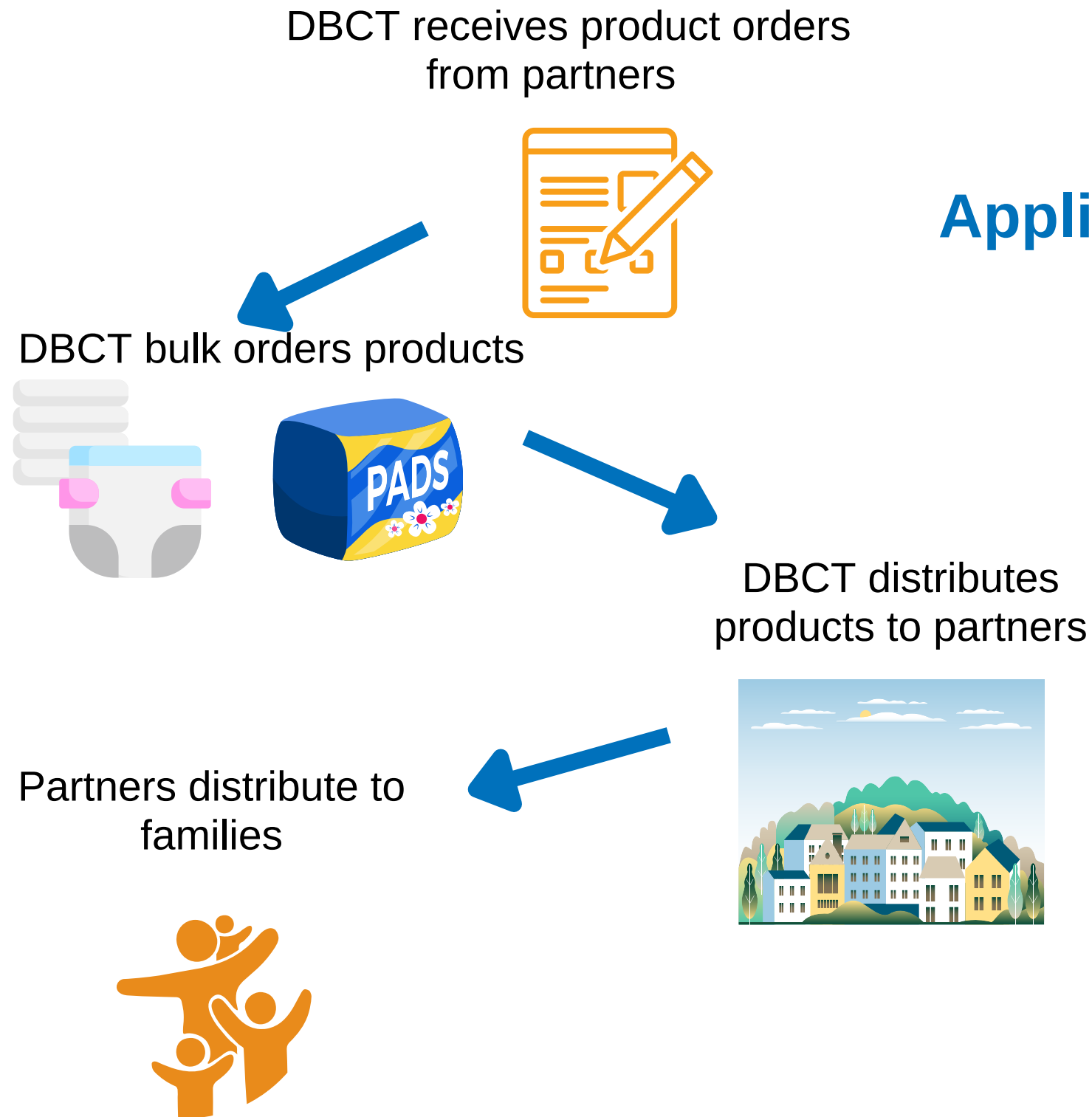
- Countertop box or basket
- Freestanding storage unit such a drawers or cabinet
- File or folder affixed to wall

In selecting the best option for the school, staff and students may want to consider factors including:

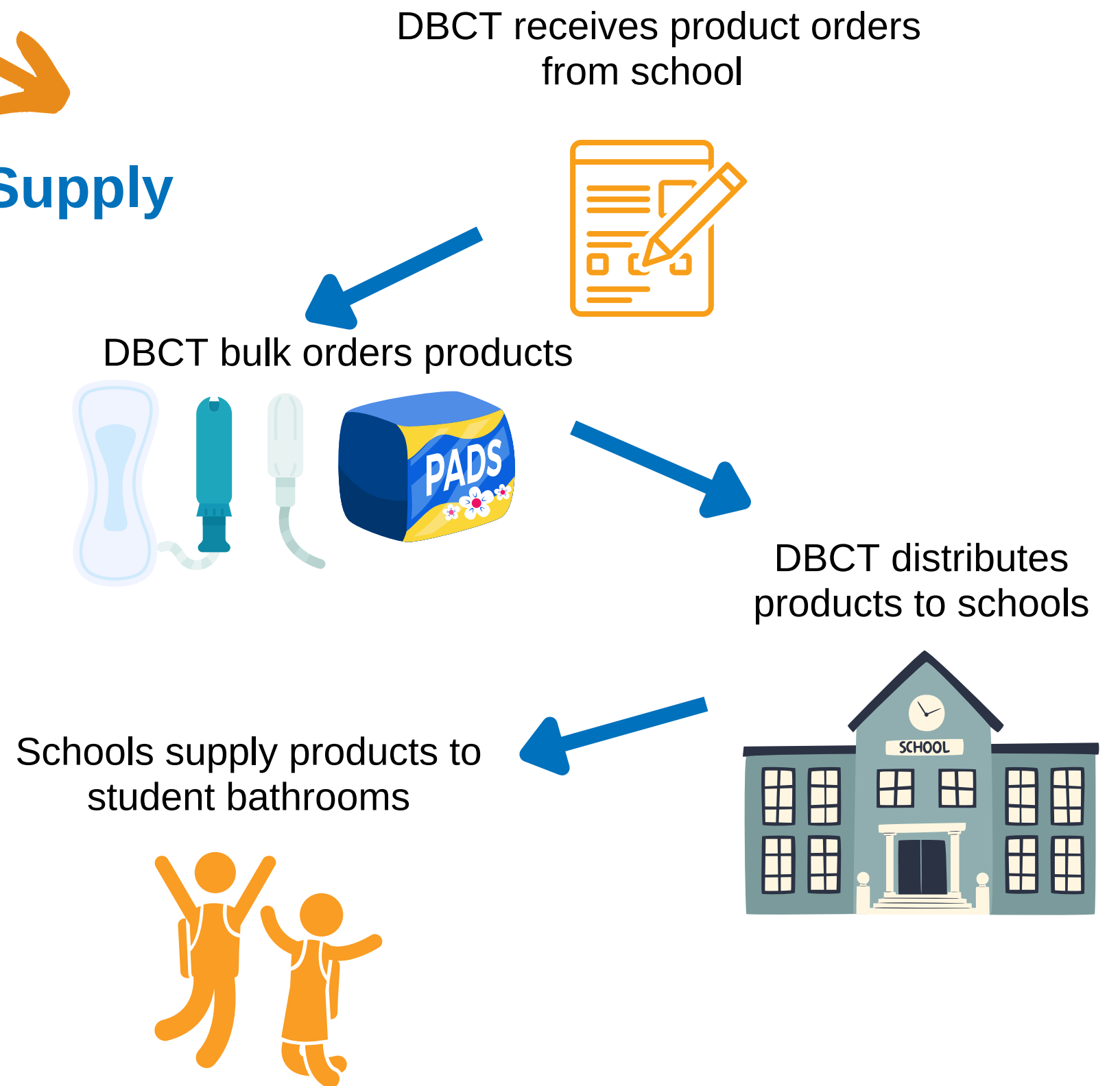
- Whether dispensers can readily carry the full selection of products
- Whether the method is tamperproof or easy to remove
- The size of the student population and whether a smaller receptacle such as a folder on the wall is sufficient (for instance, in elementary schools)
- Student maturity and receptivity

Distribution

DBCT's Trusted Model of Distribution



Period Supply Distribution to Schools



Applied to Period Supply Distribution

Next Steps

- DBCT to follow up after this meeting
 - If your school is interested, we will walk you through the ordering process
- Timeline-
 - September - orders in
 - October - first delivery to schools
 - Deliveries to schools - quarterly
- DPH suggestions appointing a “coordinator”
- **Our goal is to make this program work for everyone, feedback is always welcome and appreciated!**



Q & A

