

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 154

Introduced by Representative Susan A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As of March 2013 the Pantawid Pamilya is being implemented in 143 cities and 1,484 municipalities in 79 provinces where a total of 3,967,517 households are enrolled exceeding the target of 3,809,769 for 2013. Of the total households, 1,636,879 come from Luzon, while 1,519,518 and 811,120 are from Mindanao and Visayas, respectively.

The total cash grant paid to eligible and compliant Pantawid Pamilya household beneficiaries for the first period of 2013 covering January and February total to PhP 6,908,317,600.00. Of this amount, PhP3,729,952,600.00 was for education and PhP 3,178,365,000.00 for health.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program is more than just a cash grant program. It breaks the intergenerational poverty cycle through investments in human capital. Furthermore, the program will help the government meet its Millennium Development Goals, namely: (1) Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger, (2) Achieve Universal Primary Education, (3) Promote Gender Equality, (4) Reduce Child Mortality, and (5) Improve Maternal Health. (4Ps DSWD, 2010)

A World Bank panel of economists, convened in 2009 to assess conditional cash transfers in Latin America, noted a substantial decline in poverty incidence in program participants. Another observation among the participants is the encouragement of good health and education practices among the family. The same have been observed among the pilot beneficiaries of the 4Ps program.

Given the success of this Program to reach out to the poor, there is a need to ensure sustainability through an enacted policy. Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan A. Yap".

SUSAN A. YAP
Representative, Second District of Tarlac

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 154

Introduced by Representative Susan A. Yap

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER PROGRAM OF
THE GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE POVERTY AND PROMOTE HUMAN CAPITAL
DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino
2 Program Act".

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State recognizes the need to strengthen the
4 solidarity of the family and actively promote its total development.

5 The State further recognizes its obligation to promote a just and dynamic social order that will
6 ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies
7 that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an
8 improved quality of life for all.

9 The State furthermore recognizes the need to protect the weak and under-privileged, especially
10 the poor households; thus, the State hereby declares it a policy to:

11 (a) Provide assistance to the poor to alleviate their immediate needs (short-term social
12 assistance);

13 (b) Break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through investment in human capital and
14 improved delivery of basic services to the poor, particularly education, health and nutrition (long-term
15 social development);

16 (c) Promote gender equality and empowerment of women;

17 (d) Achieve universal primary education;

18 (e) Reduce child mortality; and

19 (f) Improve maternal health.

20 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:

21 **(a) Program** refers to the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) which is the national
22 poverty reduction strategy that provides conditional cash transfer to poor households to improve their
23 health, nutrition and education particularly of children aged below 18 years;

24 **(b) Poor** refers to households whose income falls below the poverty threshold as defined by the
25 National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and/or cannot afford in a sustained manner to
26 provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities of
27 life.

28 In this Act, the poor shall be identified using the National Household Targeting System for
29 Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR);

1 (c) **National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR)** refers to a
2 system for identifying who and where the poor households are through the generation of socio-
3 economic database of poor households adopted by the national government agencies and being
4 implemented by the Department;

5 (d) **Department** refers to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which
6 is the lead agency in the implementation of the Program;

7 (e) **Qualified Household-Beneficiaries** refer to households identified by the Department for
8 entitlement of the monthly conditional cash transfer, with children aged below 18 years or who may have
9 members who are pregnant;

10 (f) **Child** refers to a minor belonging to the qualified household-beneficiary aged below 18
11 years;

12 (g) **Responsible Person** refers to the parent or guardian in the qualified household-beneficiary;

13 (h) **Grantee** refers to the most responsible adult member of the qualified household-beneficiary
14 authorized to withdraw or receive the conditional cash transfer;

15 (i) **Conditional Cash Transfer** refers to the amount being received by the qualified household-
16 beneficiaries in fulfillment of their co-responsibilities;

17 (j) **Indigenous Peoples** refer to groups of people identified by self-ascription and ascription of
18 others who have incessantly lived as organized community on communally bounded and defined
19 territory, and who have under claims of ownership, since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and
20 utilized such territories, sharing common bonds of language, through resistance to political, social and
21 cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and culture, became historically differentiated
22 from the majority of the Filipinos;

23 (k) **Preventive Health Check Up** refers to health services comprising of complete
24 immunization, deworming, weight monitoring and management of childhood diseases;

25 (l) **Health Service Providers** refer to barangay health workers, barangay nutrition scholars and
26 midwives;

27 (m) **Compliance Verification** refers to the checking and monitoring to ensure that the
28 qualified household-beneficiaries fulfill their co-responsibilities set forth by the program;

29 (n) **Grievance Redress System** refers to the mechanism of the Department which addresses
30 and resolves issues and concerns related to the implementation of the Program;

31 **SECTION 4. Selection of Qualified Household-Beneficiaries.** - On a nation-wide basis, the
32 Department and the Health Service Providers, shall select qualified household-beneficiaries using the
33 NHTS-PR. The following geographic criteria shall also be the basis in the selection of qualified
34 household-beneficiaries:

35 (a) Areas with high vulnerability to natural and man-made calamities, such as but not limited to,
36 flooding, typhoon, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, and drought as declared by the local risk
37 reduction and management council and/or appropriate agencies; and

38 (b) Areas with very high magnitude of vulnerable individuals, families or households in need of
39 special protection, such as but not limited to, indigenous peoples, street families, persons with disabilities
40 and internally displaced persons as declared by the regional provincial or local government units.

41 **SECTION 5. Local Verification Committee.** - A Local Verification Committee shall be
42 created in every municipality or city composed of three (3) local government unit representatives, an
43 accredited health-service provider from the barangay, a representative of an accredited civil society
44 organization, and the municipal superintendent of the Department of Education.

45 This Committee shall be tasked to ensure that the initial list of beneficiaries satisfies the eligibility
46 requirements set forth under this Act. Further, it shall be tasked to ensure the household-beneficiaries'
47 compliance with conditionalities set forth in Section 7 of this Act.

SECTION 6. Conditional Cash Transfer. - Subject to certain conditions, each qualified household-beneficiary shall receive a conditional cash transfer equivalent to Five Hundred Pesos (PhP500.00) per month for health and nutrition expenses or the equivalent of Six Thousand Pesos (PhP6,000.00) per qualified household-beneficiary per year, and an additional Three Hundred Pesos (PhP300.00) per month per child for educational expenses or the equivalent of Three Thousand Pesos (PhP3,000.00) per a 10-month school year. A maximum of three (3) children per qualified household-beneficiary shall be allowed.

A supplementary education grant of Three Hundred Pesos (PhP300.00) per month shall be given to the child who has maintained passing grades in all subjects after the first year of implementation of the program.

SECTION 7. Conditions for Entitlement. - All qualified household-beneficiaries shall comply with the following conditions as a requirement for continued program eligibility:

(a) Pregnant women must get a pre- and post natal care and be attended by a skilled or trained health care professional during childbirth;

(b) At least one responsible person must attend family development sessions and natural family planning sessions conducted by the Department, at least once a month;

(c) Children 0 to 5 years old must receive regular preventive health check-ups;

(d) Children 3 to 5 years old must attend day care or pre-school classes at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the time;

(e) Children 6 to below 18 years old must attend the elementary or high school classes at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the time;

(f) Children 6 to below 18 years old must avail of de-worming pills at least twice a year;

(g) At least one responsible person must join and complete at least two (2) government recognized and/or accredited NGO-sponsored entrepreneurship or livelihood training programs;

(h) At least one responsible person must maintain cleanliness in the surroundings and practice proper garbage disposal;

(i) At least one responsible person must plant trees in their surroundings; and

(j) At least one responsible person must assist, help or participate in bayanihan projects in their respective barangay or municipality.

SECTION 8. Mode of Cash Transfer. - The conditional cash transfer shall be released by the Department and shall be received by the grantee or any of the grantee's duly authorized representative on a bi-monthly basis through an authorized government depository bank duly identified by the Department using different appropriate payment modes, such as but not limited to, cash card, over-the-counter, money remittance services, conduit rural banks, and cooperatives.

SECTION 9. Non-Compliance with Conditions. - The responsible person of a reported qualified household-beneficiary who fails to comply with the conditions set forth in Section 7 shall at first be notified in writing. If despite due notice, the qualified household-beneficiary continues with non-compliance, the benefits under this Act may be suspended.

Should the qualified household-beneficiary so notified persist in their failure to comply as directed, the cash transfer shall be canceled after one year of non-compliance.

SECTION 10. Periodic Assessment of Cash Transfer. - The amounts indicated in Section 6 shall be made available to the qualified household-beneficiaries during the first two (2) years of the implementation of this Act and reasonable adjustments may thereafter be made by the President, if necessary, upon recommendation by the Department, after taking into account the rates of inflation and similar economic indicators.

SECTION 11. Loan Assistance. - Responsible persons who successfully completed the entrepreneurship or livelihood programs required under Section 7 shall be given loan assistance without interest to serve as their initial capital through the sustainable livelihood program of the government.

1 **SECTION 12. *Five-Year Maximum Limit.*** - Each qualified household-beneficiary shall
2 receive the conditional cash transfer for a maximum period of five (5) years.

3 **SECTION 13. *Lead Agency.*** - The Department shall serve as the central planning,
4 coordinating, implementing and monitoring body of the program.

5 In the implementation of this Act, the Department shall have the following functions:

6 (a) Select and use an appropriate, effective and cost efficient method devised for the purpose of
7 identifying and selecting qualified household-beneficiaries;

8 (b) Identify and select the target household-beneficiaries on the basis of a uniform, objective and
9 transparent selection process;

10 (c) Conduct seminar-workshops and training programs in order to ensure qualified household-
11 beneficiary awareness of the conditions and other actions pertinent to this Act;

12 (d) Coordinate with different national and local agencies, including organizations from the
13 private sector to effect convergence towards the full implementation of statutory commitments herein;

14 (e) Set up monitoring and evaluation systems and methodologies on compliance of conditions,
15 implementation of operations, and output and impact assessments. It shall also coordinate with the Local
16 Verification Committee at the national, regional and municipal levels to verify compliance once a month
17 using the monitoring and evaluation systems designed for the purpose;

18 (f) Coordinate with the Advisory Council to recommend to the President measures and policies
19 for the responsive implementation of the commitments under this Act;

20 (g) Coordinate with different national and local agencies to maintain and update objective
21 poverty maps which will be checked and cross-checked periodically for duplications and inaccurate or
22 erroneous information;

23 (h) Formulate implementing rules and guidelines for the enforcement of this Act;

24 (i) Submit an annual report to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee including, but not
25 limited to, all aspects of its operations, financial status and other relevant data; and

26 (j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or incidental to the proper enforcement of
27 the statutory commitments under this Act.

28 **SECTION 14. *Grievance Committee.*** - A Grievance Committee shall likewise be created at
29 the municipal, regional and national levels, headed by the Department and may be composed of the
30 municipal superintendent of the Department of Education, three representatives of the local
31 government unit concerned, an accredited health service provider from the barangay, and a
32 representative of an accredited civil society organization, as members.

33 The Grievance Committee is principally tasked to accept complaints and grievances that may
34 arise within their respective territorial jurisdictions, conduct investigation in specific cases and dispose
35 cases filed in connection thereto.

36 **SECTION 15. *Advisory Council.*** - An Advisory Council shall be created at the municipal,
37 regional and national levels to be headed by the National Anti-Poverty Commission and may be
38 composed of representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of
39 Education, Department of Health, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Department of Interior and
40 Local Government, Department of Trade and Industry, Technical Education and Skills Development
41 Authority, Department of Labor and Employment, the local government unit concerned, and accredited
42 NGOs, as members.

43 The Advisory Council is principally tasked to make policy recommendations towards the
44 improvement of the program.

45 **SECTION 16. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** - Upon the effectivity of this Act,
46 a congressional oversight committee, hereafter referred to as the 4Ps Committee, is hereby constituted.
47 The 4Ps Committee shall be composed of fourteen (14) members with the chairmen of the Committee
48 on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and of the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare

1 and Rural Development of the Senate and six (6) additional members from each House, to be designated
2 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate President, respectively.

3 This Committee is principally tasked to set the guidelines and overall framework to monitor and
4 ensure the proper implementation of this Act. It will likewise determine inherent weaknesses in the law
5 and recommend necessary remedial legislation or executive measures.

6 **SECTION 17. *Independent Monitoring Committee.*** - An Independent Monitoring
7 Committee at the municipal, regional and national levels composed of representatives from the private
8 sector and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) shall be created.

9 The Independent Monitoring Committee is principally tasked to complement the monitoring
10 activities of the Department and provide feedback thereto for proper action. It shall submit a report on
11 the results of its monitoring activities relative to the implementation of the program to the Joint
12 Congressional Oversight Committee.

13 **SECTION 18. *Convergence of Programs and Services.*** - To ensure that the qualified
14 household-beneficiaries graduate and remain non-poor after the prescribed maximum limit for receipt of
15 the conditional cash transfer, multi-stakeholder and inter-agency convergence of programs and services
16 shall be observed. This shall focus on the enhancement of operational efficiency and strengthening of
17 inter-agency partnerships for greater impact and sustainability of outcomes.

18 **SECTION 19. *Annual Appropriations.*** - The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development
19 shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the initial funding of which
20 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
21 (4Ps). Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual
22 General Appropriations Act.

23 **SECTION 20. *Penalty.*** - Any person, public or private, whether acting in conspiracy with
24 public officials, who, by act or omission, inserts or allows the insertion of data or false information or
25 who diverts from what ought to be found in the registry, with the view of altering the fact, or aiding in
26 the grant of the money to persons other than the qualified household-beneficiaries, shall be penalized
27 with imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months, or a fine of not less
28 than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00), or
29 both imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court.

30 Administrative sanctions shall be without prejudice to prosecution in the proper courts.

31 **SECTION 21. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part of this Act is held
32 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
33 effect.

34 **SECTION 22. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
35 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the
36 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

37 **SECTION 23. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
38 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,