

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5390**



INTRODUCED BY REP. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeking to reduce poverty and promote human development through the institutionalization of the ***Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)*** of the government, adopts the bill of Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago filed on July 1, 2010.

The bill is in line with the provision of the Constitution in Article 2, Section 9 which provides that:

"The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."

Based on the data gathered by the National Statistical Coordination Board in mid-2000, roughly 27.9 Million Filipinos or one-third (1/3) of the entire population are poor. Thus in 2008, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) was tasked to implement the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Program known as Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) inspired by the successes of similar programs in Latin American countries. CCT or 4Ps provides cash grants to extremely poor Filipino households to allow their families to achieve certain human development goals.

Since its inception, the program has already shown positive impacts on the lives of its beneficiaries. The cash grants increased the household incomes of the poor which in turn increase local consumption for the good of micro enterprises. The program, likewise helped improve the health and education of the children covered by 4Ps.

Indeed, institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program will greatly help in the redistribution of the wealth, and in minimizing the prevailing income inequality in our society. Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO
1st District, Marikina City

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AN ACT
TO REDUCE POVERTY AND PROMOTE HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE CREATION OF
A NATIONAL CONDITIONAL FUND TRANSFER PROGRAM

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Act of 2015."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the policy of the State:

- (A) To provide a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services and improve quality of life.
- (B) To give priority to education and health of children, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development.
- (C) To protect the life of mothers and their children .
- (D) To promote gender equality and empower women.

SECTION 3. Definition of terms. - As used in this Act, the term -

- (A) The *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)* shall refer to the national poverty reduction strategy that provides conditional cash transfer to extremely poor households to improve their health, nutrition and education particularly of children aged 0-14.
- (B) "Beneficiaries" refer to poor households with pregnant women and/or with children 0-14 year old selected by the Department of Social Welfare and Development to be a part of the program through the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTSPR).
- (C) "Department" shall refer to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which is the lead and executing agency in the implementation of this program.
- (D) "Small Area Poverty Estimate" refers to a statistical tool and methodology of generating estimates of poverty incidence by combining survey and census data at lower levels of geographic disaggregation (cities and municipalities) utilized by the National Census and Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).
- (E) "Extremely Poor" or "food poor" refers to a person whose income or other resources falls short of enabling him to provide for even just his nutritional requirements, as defined by the poverty threshold of the municipality/province based on the issuance of the National Statistical and Coordination Board (NSCB) at the time of selection.
- (F) "Poor" refers to a person whose income is sufficient to provide for his nutritional needs but falls short of enabling him to provide for his other basic necessities such as clothing, shelter, health and education, as defined by the poverty threshold of the municipality/province based on the issuance of the National Statistical and Coordination Board (NSCB) at the time of selection.

SECTION 4. Objective of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).-The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programs (4Ps) aims to:

- (A) Reduce extreme hunger and poverty.
- (B) Achieve universal primary education.
- (C) Promote gender equality and empowerment of women.
- (D) Reduce child mortality.
- (E) Improve maternal health.

SECTION 5. Construction-This law shall be liberally construed in favor of attainment of its objectives.

SECTION 6. Selection of Areas of Implementation. - The following guidelines shall be followed in the selection of areas of implementation:

- (A) In the selection of target areas, priority is given to the poorest municipalities as determined by Small Area Poverty Estimates generated by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).
- (B) Priority shall also be given to cities with large pockets of poverty as reported by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and/or the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor (PCUP) and or National Census and Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

SECTION 7. Eligible Households. - For a household to qualify as beneficiary for this program it must meet the following requirements:

1. The household is within the municipality or city identified as area of implementation.
2. The household has at least one (1) 0-14 year old child and /or a pregnant woman at the time of registration.
3. The household suffers from chronic poverty and falls within the priority ranking as determined by the National Household Targeting System (NHTS) of the DSWD which involves rigorous household assessment and application of a Proxy Means Test, a tool used to estimate the income of households on the basis proxy variables including of household composition, education, socio-economic characteristic, housing conditions, access to basic services, assets, tenure status and regional variables. The DSWD and all national government agencies shall use the NHTS for identifying and prioritizing beneficiaries for the 4 Ps as well as other social services.

SECTION 8. Program Conditions. - All beneficiaries shall comply with the following conditions as a requirement for continued program eligibility:

- (A) Children 0-5 years of age must get regular preventive health check-ups and vaccines based on the Department of Health (DOH) protocol.
- (B) Children 3-5 years of age must enroll in day care program or pre-school and attend at least eighty five percent (85%) of the required school days;
- (C) Children 6-14 years of age must be enroll in school and attend at least eighty five percent (85%) of the required school days. They must also undergo deworming at least twice a year.
- (D) Pregnant women must get at least (3) pre-natal check-up starting from the first trimester, get post natal care and the childbirth must be attended by a skilled/trained health personnel
- (E) Parents/ guardians must attend and complete responsible parenthood seminars and parenting education sessions

Failure to comply with the conditionalities warrants the suspension and/or removal of the beneficiary from the program.

SECTION 9. Grant Rates. - The following amounts shall be released to qualified beneficiaries:

- (A) The health grant beneficiary/family shall receive five hundred pesos (P500) per month per household or a total of six thousand pesos (P6,000.00) per year;

- (B) The education grant beneficiaries, the 3-14 year old children enrolled at the day care program, pre-school, elementary school or high school shall receive three hundred pesos (P300.00) per month for the ten (10) month school year or a total of three thousand pesos (P3,000.00) in a year with a maximum of three (3) children per household;

The grant rates may be adjusted by the DSWD if warranted by the changes in the socio-economic conditions existing at the time. The DSWD shall ensure that the grant rates are sufficient to make a positive impact on the health, nutrition and education conditionalities, provided, that DSWD shall ensure that the grant will not serve as disincentive for family members to work and improve their economic conditions.

SECTION 10. Grievance Redress System- The Department shall develop a Grievance Redress System that will address complaints regarding the implementation of this program.

SECTION 11. Inter-Agency Council- There shall be a National Inter-Agency Council for the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) composed of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as Chair and the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) as members.

SECTION 12. Functions of the Inter-Agency Council-The Council as a collegial body shall have following functions:

- (A) Formulate policies for the program
- (B) Oversee the implementation of the program

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is hereby designated as the executing agency for this Project. It is authorized to enter into agreements or cooperation with development agencies, both national and international for financing and technical, as well as program support for this program. The Department together with the members of the Inter-Agency Council as well as other relevant agencies that the Department may involve, shall draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations for the implementation of this law within One Hundred Twenty (120) days from the enactment of this law.

SECTION 14. Appropriation. - The amount equivalent to not less than three (3%) of approved budget in the General Appropriation Act is hereby automatically appropriated to cover approximately sixty percent (60%) of the total poor families in the Philippines.

The amount appropriated shall be automatically increased to maintain the participation of sixty percent (60%) of the total poor families should they increase from the 4.7 Million families currently estimated.

The appropriation shall continue for at least ten (10) years from the enactment of this Act. The appropriation shall be included in the annual appropriation of the DSWD.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. - If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 16. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 17. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation

Approved.