

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6305



Introduced by Representative Estrellita "Ging" B. Suansing

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.

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 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.


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

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

9 The State furthermore recognizes the need to protect the weak and underprivileged,
10 especially 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
12 social assistance);
13 b. Break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through investment in human
14 capital and improved delivery of basic needs to the poor, particularly education,
15 health, and nutrition (long-term 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 **SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

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

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

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

- 7 c. **National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR)** refers
8 to a system for identifying who and where the poor households are through the
9 generation of socio-economic database of poor households adopted by the national
10 government agencies and being implemented by the Department;
- 11 d. **Department** refers to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
12 which is the lead agency in the implementation of the Program;
- 13 e. **Qualified Household-Beneficiaries** refer to households identified by the
14 Department for entitlement of the monthly conditional cash transfer, with children
15 ages below 18 years or who may have members who are pregnant;
- 16 f. **Child** refers to a minor belonging to the qualified household-beneficiary aged below
17 18 years;
- 18 g. **Responsible Person** refers to the parent or guardian in the qualified household-
19 beneficiary;
- 20 h. **Grantee** refers to the most responsible adult member fo the qualified household
21 beneficiary authorized to withdraw or receive the conditional cash transfer;
- 22 i. **Conditional Cash Transfer** refers to the amount being received by the qualified
23 household-beneficiaries in fulfilment of their co-responsibilities;
- 24 j. **Indigenous Peoples** refer to groups of people identified by self-ascription and
25 ascription of others who have incessantly lived as organized community on
26 communally bounded and defined territory, and who have under claims of
27 ownership, since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such
28 territories, sharing common bonds of language, through resistance to political,
29 social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and culture,
30 became historically differentiated from the majority of the Filipinos;
- 31 k. **Preventive Health Check-up** refers to health services comprising of complete
32 immunization, de-worming, weight monitoring and management of childhood
33 diseases;
- 34 l. **Health Service Providers** refer to barangay health workers, barangay nutrition
35 scholars and midwives;
- 36 m. **Compliance Verification** refers to the checking and monitoring to ensure that the
37 qualified household-beneficiaries fulfill their co-responsibilities set forth by the
38 Program;
- 39 n. **Grievance Redress System** refers to the mechanism of the Department which
40 addresses and resolves issues and concerns related to the implementation of the
41 Program.

SEC. 4. *Selection of Qualified Household-Beneficiaries.* – On a nationwide basis, the Department and the Health Service Providers shall select qualified household-beneficiaries using the NHTS-PR. The following geographic criteria shall also be the basis in the selection of qualified household-beneficiaries:

- a. Areas with high vulnerability to natural and man-made calamities, such as but not limited to, flooding, typhoon, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, and drought as declared by the local risk reduction and management council and/or appropriate agencies; and
- b. Areas with very high magnitude of vulnerable individuals, families or households in need of special protection, such as but not limited to, indigenous peoples, street families, persons with disabilities, and internally displaced persons as declared by the regional, provincial, or local government units.

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

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

SEC. 6. *Conditional Cash Transfer.* – Subject to certain conditions, each qualified household-beneficiary shall receive a conditional cash transfer equivalent of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) per month for health and nutrition expenses or the equivalent of Six Thousand Pesos (Php 6,000.00) per qualified household-beneficiary per year, and an additional Three Hundred Pesos (Php 300.00) per month per child for educational expenses or the equivalent of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) 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 Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) 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.

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

- d. Children 3 to 5 years old must attend day care or pre-school classes at least eighty-five (85%) of the time;
- e. Children 6 to below 18 years of 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.

SEC. 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 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.

SEC. 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 cancelled after one year of non-compliance.

SEC. 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 Presidents, if necessary, upon recommendation by the Department, after taking into account the rates of inflation and similar economic indicators.

SEC. 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 sustained livelihood program of the government.

SEC. 12. *Five-year Maximum Limit.* – Each qualified household-beneficiary shall receive the conditional cash transfer for a maximum period of five (5) years.

SEC. 13. *Lead Agency.* – The Department shall serve as the central planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring body of the Program.

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

- 3 a. Select and use an appropriate, effective and cost efficient method devised for the
4 purpose of identifying and selecting qualified household-beneficiaries;
- 5 b. Identify and select the target household-beneficiaries on the basis of a uniform,
6 objective and transparent election process;
- 7 c. Conduct seminar-workshops and training programs in order to ensure qualified
8 household-beneficiary awareness of the conditions and other actions pertinent to
9 this Act;
- 10 d. Coordinate with different national and local agencies, including organizations from
11 the private sector to effect convergence towards the full implementation of statutory
12 commitments herein;
- 13 e. Set up monitoring and evaluation systems and methodologies on compliance of
14 conditions, implementation of operations, and output and impact assessments. It
15 shall also coordinate with the Local Verification Committee at the national, regional
16 and municipal levels to verify compliance over a month using the monitoring and
17 evaluation systems designed for the purpose;
- 18 f. Coordinate with the Advisory Council to recommend to the President measures and
19 policies for the responsive implementation of the commitments under this Act;
- 20 g. Coordinate with different national and local agencies to maintain and update
21 objective poverty maps which will be checked and cross-checked periodically for
22 duplications and inaccurate or 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
25 including, but not limited to, all aspects of its operations, financial status and other
26 relevant data; and
- 27 j. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or incidental to the proper
28 enforcement of the statutory commitments under this Act.

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

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

37 **SEC. 15. *Advisory Council.*** – An advisory council shall be created at the municipal,
38 regional and national levels to be headed by the National Anti-Poverty Commission and
39 may be composed of representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and
40 Development, Department of Education, Department of Health, Philippine Health
41 Insurance Corporation, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of

1 Trade and Industry, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department
2 of Labor and Employment, the local government unit concerned, and accredited NGOs, as
3 members.

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

6 **SEC. 16. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** – Upon the effectivity of this Act, a
7 Congressional Oversight Committee, hereafter referred to as the 4Ps Committee, is hereby
8 constituted. The 4Ps Committee shall be composed of fourteen (14) members, with the
9 chairpersons of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives and
10 of the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate and six
11 (6) additional members from each House, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of
12 Representatives and the Senate President, respectively.

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

17 **SEC. 17. *Independent Monitoring Committee.*** – An Independent Monitoring Committee at
18 the municipal, regional and national levels composed of representatives from the private
19 sector and civil society organizations shall be created.

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

24 **SEC. 18. *Convergence of Programs and Services.*** – To ensure that the qualified household-
25 beneficiaries graduate and remain non-poor after the prescribed maximum limit for receipt
26 of the conditional cash transfer, multi-stakeholder and inter-agency convergence of
27 programs and services shall be observed. This shall focus on the enhancement of
28 operational efficiency and strengthening of inter-agency partnerships for greater impact
29 and sustainability outcomes.

30 **SEC. 19. *Penalty.*** – Any person, public or private, whether acting in conspiracy with
31 public officials, who, by act or omission, inserts or allows the insertion of data or false
32 information or who diverts from what ought to be found in the registry, with the view of
33 altering the fact, or aiding in the grant of money to persons other than the qualified
34 household-beneficiaries, shall be penalized with imprisonment of not less than one (1)
35 month but not more than six (6) months, or a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos
36 (Php10,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00), or both
37 imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court.

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

3 **SEC. 20. Appropriations.** – The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall include
4 in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the initial funding of which
5 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Pantawid Pamilyang
6 Pilipino Program (4Ps). Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued implementation
7 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

8 **SEC. 21. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this Act is held unconstitutional
9 or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
10 effect.

11 **SEC. 22. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
12 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
13 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

16 **Approved,**