

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 998



Introduced by: **HONORABLE ROSEMARIE C. PANOTES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The granting of Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) has been a part of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) protective services program for the poor, marginalized and vulnerable or disadvantaged individuals as part of its technical assistance and resource augmentation support to local government units and other partners. In the few decades of the existence of the program, it has already benefited hundreds of thousands of poor people, especially in the far-flung areas.

As the centrepiece of the Protective Service Program, the DSWD extends financial and/or material assistance by providing monetary support in the form of outright cash and/or guarantee letter to service providers to augment the resources of the target beneficiaries, which include, but not limited to, transportation assistance, medical assistance, burial assistance, and educational assistance.

The type and amount of financial assistance provided to target beneficiaries are based on the assessment and recommendation of the social workers and/authorized personnel, duly approved by the authorized official or officials of the DSWD.

Due to the immense success of the Program in alleviating the plight of the vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, there is a need to make this permanent that whoever will govern the country, the granting of AICS will continue so that the marginalized individuals and families needing immediate intervention may have access to basic services from the government.

This bill was found to be meritorious as this was approved with amendments by the Committee but due to lack of material time the Committee Report did not reach the plenary.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the immediate approval of this important piece of legislation is earnestly sought.


ROSEMARIE C. PANOTES
Representative
Second District, Camarines Norte

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Introduced by: **HONORABLE ROSEMARIE C. PANOTES**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANTING OF ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS SITUATION (AICS), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

*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 “*Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human being and guarantee full respect for human rights. Toward this end, the disadvantaged individuals, families and communities must be liberated from the quagmire of poverty by providing assistance, projects, programs and services geared towards alleviating poverty and an improved quality of life for every Filipino, especially the marginalized sector.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Target Beneficiaries refer to individuals and/or families who are indigent, vulnerable, disadvantaged or are otherwise in crisis situation based on the assessment of the social workers;
- b. National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) refers to the data and an information management system that identifies who and where are the poor in the Philippines;
- c. Crisis Situation refers to a condition whereby an individual or group of persons are faced a different and stressful situation resulting to the impairment of his/her psychosocial functioning thereby needing series of interventions to prevent further exposure to vulnerabilities, exploitation and abuse; and
- d. Financial and/or Material Assistance refers to the provision of monetary support in the form of outright cash and/or guarantee letter to service providers to augment the resources of the client, which include, but not limited to, transportation assistance, medical assistance, burial assistance, and educational assistance.

SEC. 4. Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS). – Each qualified target beneficiary shall receive financial and/or material assistance equivalent to at least Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) and, in extremely justifiable cases, the amount of assistance shall not exceed One hundred thousand pesos (100,000.00).

SEC. 5. Type, Kind and Amount of Financial Assistance. – The type, kind and amount of financial assistance to be provided to target beneficiaries shall be based on the assessment and recommendation of the social workers and/or authorized personnel, duly approved by the authorized official or officials of the DSWD.

Appropriate documentation shall support all disbursements of funds based on the Social Case Study Report for each target beneficiary.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DSWD of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders or issuances, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

Approved,