

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1940



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Introduced by

**HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**  
and  
**HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE**

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS**  
**SITUATION (AICS) PROGRAM AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to “free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services.” To uphold this, this bill seeks to institutionalize the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

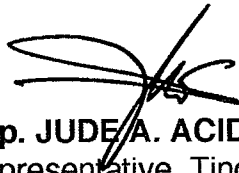
AICS is social safety net or stop-gap measure to support the recovery of individuals and families who are indigent, vulnerable, disadvantaged or are otherwise in crisis situation. It provides psychosocial intervention through therapies; direct financial or material assistance which enables such individuals and families to meet their basic needs in the form of food, transportation, medical, educational, or burial assistance; and, referral to other services of other national government agencies.

For this purpose, this bill seeks to institute a permanent program under the DSWD to enhance the existing program and continue providing immediate relief to marginalized and indigent individuals and families.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**  
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



**Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE**  
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 (AICS) Act.”

**Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** It is hereby declared a policy of the State to provide immediate relief to all individuals in extreme and difficult situations. Priority attention shall be given to the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized sectors of the society. Such assistance to be given to the individuals and families who need immediate intervention will allow them to access basic services in order to fully recover from their dire situations.

**Section 3. *Definition of Terms.*** As used in this Act, the following terms are defined, as follows:

- a) *Burial Assistance* refers to the assistance to defray funeral and related expenses;
- b) *Cash Assistance* for other support services refers to an assistance provided

to individuals and families in extremely difficult circumstances in which the need does not fall on other types of assistance;

- c) *Crisis Situation* refers to a condition whereby an individual or group of persons are faced with a different and stressful situation, resulting to the impairment of his/her psychosocial functioning, and thereby needing a series of interventions to prevent further exposure to vulnerabilities, exploitation, and abuse;
- d) *Education Assistance* refers to the assistance given to eligible students to help defray school expenses and/or cost of sending students/children to school;
- e) *Food Assistance* refers to the assistance to beneficiaries amounting to at least eighty pesos (₱80.00) per meal per individual for meals;
- f) *Medical Assistance* refers to assistance to help shoulder hospitalization expenses, cost of medicines, other medical treatment or procedure, or professional fees;
- g) *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; and,
- h) *Transportation Assistance* refers to the assistance for the purchase or payment of transport tickets and/or expenses to enable the beneficiaries to return to their home provinces permanently or seek further medical interventions in another place, or to attend to emergency concerns or critical situations of family members or other individuals in need.

**Section 4. *The Assistance to Individuals in Crisis (AICS) Program.*** The AICS Program shall provide integrated services to individuals and families in crisis or difficult situations in the form of psychosocial intervention or direct financial and material assistance.

The AICS Program shall provide its target beneficiaries with transportation assistance, medical assistance, burial assistance, education assistance, food assistance, cash assistance, psychosocial intervention, or referral for other services, subject to screening, verification, and assessment of the beneficiaries' needs by social

workers: *Provided*, that in providing education assistance, working students in public education institutions shall be prioritized.

**Section 5. *Conditions for Eligibility to Receive AICS Assistance.*** The client seeking assistance shall present to the social worker assigned the following documents as may be necessary to the type of assistance applied for:

- a) Any valid identification card;
- b) Police blotter;
- c) Police certification;
- d) Medical case study report, medical certificate, or medical abstract;
- e) Hospital billing statement or statement of account;
- f) Medical prescriptions;
- g) Death certificate;
- h) Funeral contract;
- i) School enrolment assessment form or certificate of registration;
- j) School identification card;
- k) Travel documents; or,
- l) Any other supporting documents as may be required in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

**Section 6. *Rates of Assistance.*** The range of the rates of assistance per type, including the frequency with which a beneficiary may avail the same, shall be as follows:

| TYPE                      | PARTICULARS                      | COST OF ASSISTANCE                    |             | FREQUENCY OF AVAILMENT      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
|                           |                                  | MINIMUM                               | MAXIMUM     |                             |
| Transportation Assistance | Land Travel                      | Actual cost based on ticket quotation |             | Once (1) a year             |
|                           | Sea Travel                       |                                       |             |                             |
|                           | Air Travel                       |                                       |             |                             |
| Medical Assistance        | Hospitalization or Hospital Bill | ₱1,000.00                             | ₱150,000.00 | Once every three (3) months |
|                           | Medicines (out-patient)          | ₱1,000.00                             | ₱10,000.00  |                             |

|                                            |                                          |                         |            |                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            | Laboratory Procedures (out-patient)      | ₱1,000.00               | ₱10,000.00 |                                                      |
| Burial Assistance                          | Funeral Expenses                         | ₱5,000.00               | ₱25,000.00 | A client may avail two (2) services at the same time |
|                                            | Transfer of Cadaver                      | ₱5,000.00               | ₱25,000.00 |                                                      |
|                                            | Casualties during disaster/calamity      | ₱10,000.00 per casualty |            |                                                      |
| Educational Assistance                     | Elementary Students                      | ₱1,000.00               | ₱10,000.00 | Once (1) every school year                           |
|                                            | High school students                     | ₱1,500.00               | ₱10,000.00 |                                                      |
|                                            | Senior High School or College Students   | ₱3,000.00               | ₱10,000.00 | Once (1) every semester                              |
| Food Assistance                            | Food Subsidy for individuals or families | ₱1,000.00               | ₱5,000.00  | As needed, subject to assessment                     |
| Cash Assistance for other support services | Other needs                              | ₱1,000.00               | ₱10,000.00 | Once every applicable incident                       |
| Provision of PPEs                          |                                          | ₱1,000.00               | ₱2,000.00  | One (1) every three (3) months                       |

**Section 7. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as the Lead Agency.** The DSWD shall serve as the central planning, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring of the AICS Program.

In the implementation of this Act, the DSWD shall perform the following functions:

- a) Screen, verify, and assess the situation of the beneficiaries and identify the appropriate intervention to fully serve their situation;
- b) Provide the appropriate assistance to the beneficiaries from the array of benefits enumerated in Section 6 of this Act;
- c) Coordinate with different national and local agencies, including organizations from the private sector to ensure full implementation of statutory commitments herein;
- d) Submit an annual report to Congress on all aspects of the operations of the program, financial status, and other relevant data; and,

- e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or incidental to the proper implementation of this Act.

**Section 8. *Creation of Advisory Councils.*** An Advisory Council shall be created at the regional and national levels to be headed by the DSWD.

The regional advisory councils (RACs) and national advisory council (NAC) shall have, as members, representatives from the DSWD, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The RACs and NAC shall also have, as additional members, two (2) representatives from accredited non-governmental organizations working or monitoring social welfare service programs.

The advisory councils shall have the following functions:

- a) Meet regularly to promote coordination across agencies to enhance the implementation of the program and jointly address and resolve program implementation issues;
- b) Recommend to the President of the Philippines measures and policies for the responsive delivery of the commitments under this Act and integration with the general poverty reduction strategy of the government;
- c) Promulgate a grievance redress system and accept complaints and grievances pertaining to the implementation of the program;
- d) Review the monitoring and assessment reports of the Independent Monitoring Committee and submit necessary policy recommendations to Congress to improve and strengthen the program, if necessary.

**Section 9. *Creation of Independent Monitoring Committee.*** An Independent Monitoring Committee shall be created at the regional and national levels composed of representatives from the private sector and civil society organizations (CSO) to complement the monitoring activities of the DSWD and provide feedback for appropriate action. It shall submit a report on the results of its monitoring activities relative to the implementation of the program to the respective regional advisory

councils and the NAC. A monitoring and evaluation report shall be submitted to the DSWD and to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee at regular intervals, as determined in the implementing rules and regulations.

**Section 10. *Annual Report of the Program.*** The DSWD shall annually publish a full report of the AICS covering the implementation of the previous fiscal year. The said report shall include financial disclosures, number of clients/beneficiaries served, and recommendations to the President and to both chambers of Congress on how to further enhance it. this report shall be submitted to Congress before the submission of the President's Budget Message.

**Section 11. *Program Transparency.*** The DSWD shall regularly and timely post and update on its website a report of financial disclosures and information about beneficiaries based on graphical area, social, economic, and cultural circumstances.

**Section 12. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** Upon the effectivity of this Act, a Congressional Oversight Committee, hereafter referred to as the AICS Oversight Committee is hereby constituted. This Committee shall set the overall framework to review the implementation of this Act. It shall likewise determine inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend necessary remedial legislation or executive measures.

The AICS Oversight Committee shall be composed of six (6) members with the chairpersons of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare, and Rural Development of the Senate as co-chairpersons; and six (6) members from each House, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President, respectively.

For purposes of determining remedial legislations, the AICS Oversight Committee shall, within six (6) years after the effectivity of this Act, conduct a review which shall include a systematic evaluation of the impact of this Act, accomplishments of the programs, and the performance of its implementing agency.

**Section 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within one (1) month from

the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, in coordination with appropriate government departments and agencies with the participation of local government units, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

**Section 14. *Appropriation.*** The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

**Section 15. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**Section 16. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,