



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 630

Introduced by Representative **EDUARDO R. RAMA, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"The object of government is the welfare of the people"

-Theodore Roosevelt

The creation of the Department of Social Welfare and Development ("DSWD") finds its origins in the hopes of providing an agency responsible for developing and administering a comprehensive social welfare program dedicated to ameliorating the living conditions of Filipinos, especially those who are vulnerable and at-risk because of poverty, disability, age, and those who are victims of calamities.¹ Currently, DSWD is the primary agency for implementing key programs in the government: Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program ("4Ps"), Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations ("AICS"), and Comprehensive Intervention Against Gender-Based Violence.

Nevertheless, the implementation of these programs was met with difficulties. Legislators and other government agencies have pointed out irregularities in their effectiveness and efficiency in terms of addressing the needs of the intended beneficiaries. To put into context, the Commission on Audit ("COA") has flagged the DSWD for its process in selecting beneficiaries of 4Ps wherein a number of them were not part of the *Listahanan*, or the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction ("NHTS-PR").² The Senate of the Philippines was also called to investigate the lapses in the program such as delayed payouts, and the inclusion of unqualified families.³

¹ Republic Act No. 5416. *Social Welfare Act*. 15 June 1968.

² Commission on Audit (2022). *Follow-Up on the Performance Audit on the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*. <https://www.coa.gov.ph/reports/performance-audit-reports/2022-2/follow-up-on-the-performance-audit-on-the-pantawid-pamilyang-pilipino-program/>.

³ Lalu, Gabriel (26 April 2022) *De Lima wants probe of alleged lapses in 4ps implementation*. INQUIRER. NET. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1587968/de-lima-wants-probe-of-alleged-lapses-in-4ps-implementation>

It can be recalled that DSWD struggled with the distribution of assistance to thousands of parents and students under the AICS program. Furthermore, COA has called the attention of the department because of its non-submission of documents corresponding to payouts and issues on double payments of assistance to at least 310 beneficiaries under the program.⁴ Likewise, the role of DSWD in preventing and responding to gender-based violence has been accentuated by the rise of reports of women and children becoming victims of abuse and violence.⁵

Hence, in light of these issues in the Department and the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order through social services, this House Bill seeks to establish a **Barangay Social Welfare Office** to aid the DSWD in implementing the aforementioned programs in the local communities and uplift the quality of life of residents.

Under this House Bill, there shall be a barangay social welfare officer as head and assisted by three (3) barangay social welfare employees. The office shall also have the following units, namely: poverty alleviation, crisis management, and women and children welfare, wherein each is assigned to enforce 4Ps, AICS, and intervention against Gender-Based violence in the barangays.

Given the foregoing and in the promotion of social welfare, support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly requested.



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⁴ Ku, Russell (17 August 2021). *CoA finds lapses in DSWD Program for crisis fund*. Business World. <https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2021/08/17/389899/coa-finds-lapses-in-dswd-program-for-crisis-fund/>; Ferreras, Vince (16 August 2023). *COA flags DSWD for deficiencies in payout of P 467-M crisis aid*. CNN Philippines. <http://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2023/8/16/COA-DSWD-payout-AICS-.html>

⁵ Philippine Commission on Women (31 December 2022). *Estado ni Juana: Status of the Filipino Women Report*. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FKiw7HUIQp6STNo-CXA-OTFkv-JJS89g> Miriam College Center for Strategic Research (22 March 2021). *Assessing the Organizational Responsiveness and Service Delivery of Local Government Units and the Department of Social Welfare and Development on Violence Against Women and Children amidst the Community Quarantine due to the COVID-19 Pandemic*. https://www.dswd.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Final-Report-DSWD-MCCSR_cover_v2-1-1.pdf



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING BARANGAY SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 “Barangay Social Welfare
2 Office Act”.

3
4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of State Policy*** — The State values the role of social workers
5 in crafting and promoting a just and dynamic social order where people are independent, and
6 provided with adequate social services to improve their quality of life.

7
8 **SECTION 3. *Objective.*** — There is hereby created the Barangay Social Welfare Office to
9 facilitate the provision of social services, opportunities, and assistance under the programs of the
10 Department of Social Welfare and Development (“DSWD”) at the grassroots level. Through this,
11 social services are made accessible and easily available to individuals and families in the barangay.

12
13 **SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.*** — As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean
14 as follows:

15
16 **Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (“AICS”)** — one of the social welfare
17 services of the DSWD that provides medical assistance, burial, transportation, education, food, or
18 financial assistance for other support services or needs of a person or family.

1 **Case Management** — a process used by DSWD to enable qualified household
2 beneficiaries to improve their functioning by dealing with their difficulties, specifically in
3 complying with the terms of the Program. It is a mutually agreed process of assessing, planning,
4 managing, coordinating, and advocating for services and other interventions for improving the
5 well-being of households using the Social Welfare and Development Indicator (SWDI) and other
6 related tools.

7
8 **City or Municipal link** — one of the field implementers of the 4Ps at the local level.

9
10 **Community Assembly** — one of the approaches to be used in validating the identity,
11 accuracy of information, and eligibility of the households under the 4Ps where the households are
12 gathered on a scheduled date and venue.

13
14 **Crisis Situation** — refers to a time in the individuals' life when they experience a
15 breakdown or disruption in their usual or normal daily activities or family functioning which
16 disrupts or prevents them from adequately performing their social functions.

17
18 **Crisis Intervention Unit or Section ("CIU/S")** — is a special unit of the DSWD that
19 serves as an action center to immediately respond to cases of individuals and families in crisis.

20
21 **Family Development Sessions** — a monthly activity conducted with and attended by a
22 grantee or a responsible person, whose aim is to enhance parenting capabilities, thereby
23 encouraging the grantee or person to be a more active citizen in society.

24
25 **Financial Assistance** — refers to cash or guarantee letters provided to qualified
26 beneficiaries or through the service providers, namely: medical assistance, funeral assistance,
27 transportation assistance, educational assistance, food assistance, and cash assistance for other
28 support services.

29
30 **House-to-House Registration** — one of the approaches to be used in validating the
31 identity, accuracy of the information, and eligibility of the households under 4Ps for those living
32 in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas and for those who cannot attend the scheduled
33 community assembly.

34
35 **Household** — the social unit consisting of a person living alone or a group of persons who
36 sleep in the same housing unit, including any place of dwelling or facility, and have common
37 arrangements for the preparation and consumption of food.

38
39 **Household Registration** — the process of enrolling eligible household beneficiaries in
40 the 4Ps.

1 **Household in special and difficult circumstances or peculiar situations** — any
2 household that is assessed by a case manager as being in a special and difficult circumstance or
3 peculiar situation needing development interventions.
4

5 **Local Social Welfare Development Office (“LSWDO”)** — the local office of the DSWD
6 which is in formulating measures, developing strategies, providing assistance, and delivering basic
7 services relative to social welfare and development to the local community.
8

9 **Material Assistance** — refers to the provision of food and non-food items to beneficiaries
10 who need immediate material support which can be covered by the items listed below, subject to
11 the availability of the material assistance as follows: family food packs or other food items, hygiene
12 and sleeping kits, and assistive devices and technologies.
13

14 **National Program Management Office (“NPMO”)** — an office of the DSWD for the
15 responsive and efficient implementation of 4Ps policy standards, guidelines, and regulations.
16

17 **Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)** — human development measure of the
18 national government that provides conditional cash grants to the poorest of the poor, to improve
19 the health, nutrition, and education of children aged 0-18.
20

21 **Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (“PMED”)** — a division under the
22 NPMO that secures the list of eligible household beneficiaries.
23

24 **Program Orientation Session** — a session held for the 4Ps household beneficiaries after
25 being selected to help them understand the program and its objectives, and the roles of other
26 agencies or organizations.
27

28 **Psychosocial support** — refers to support given to help meet the psychological, emotional,
29 and social needs of beneficiaries and their families.
30

31 **Psychological First Aid** — refers to immediate assistance in the form of comfort giving
32 and clarificatory counseling provided to children, adolescents, adults, and families who are
33 affected by a disaster or traumatic incident.
34

35 **Social Work Counseling** — refers to counseling to help clients gain insights into their
36 feelings which affects their behaviors, and/or enable them to process their thoughts and feelings.
37 This also identifies potential solutions to the issues at hand for the crisis situation.

1 **Youth Development Sessions** — a voluntary activity that serves as complementary
2 learning to the FDS where it provides additional learning intervention to adolescent children of
3 4Ps households.
4

5 **SECTION 5. *Creation of the Barangay Social Welfare Office.*** — The Barangay Social
6 Welfare Office shall be organized in every barangay. Every office shall be under the supervision
7 of the regional or local office of the DSWD having jurisdiction over the city or municipality where
8 the barangay is located.
9

10 **SECTION 6. *Composition*** — Every barangay social welfare office shall be composed of
11 the Barangay Social Welfare Officer who shall be the head of the office, and three (3) Barangay
12 Social Welfare Employees.
13

14 **SECTION 7. *Qualifications.*** — To be eligible for the position of barangay social welfare
15 officer, he or she must possess the following qualifications:

- 16 a. Must be of legal age;
- 17 b. Must pass the Social Workers Licensure Examination;
- 18 c. Must have at least two (2) years of experience in social work; and
- 19 d. Must not have a pending case or not have been convicted of final judgment of any
20 crime.

21 Qualifications and exceptions applicable to this section shall be subject to any conditions
22 imposed by the Civil Service Commission (“CSC”) and the provisions of R.A 4373, the “Act to
23 Regulate the Practice of Social Work in the Philippines”, and R.A. 9433, the “Act Providing for a
24 Magna Carta for Public Social Workers.”
25

26 **SECTION 8. *Plantilla Position and Salary Grade.*** — The barangay social welfare officer
27 shall hold a plantilla position and be compensated with a salary grade of 13. He or she shall be
28 appointed under permanent status and protected by the Civil Service Act, R.A. 9433, and other
29 related laws, rules, and regulations.
30

31 **SECTION 9. *Security of Tenure.*** — No barangay social welfare officer shall be removed
32 or transferred without just or authorized causes enumerated in the Labor Code. He or she must
33 always be afforded due process. If he or she is unjustly dismissed, he or she shall be entitled to
34 reinstatement without loss of seniority rights and back wages with twelve percent (12%) interest
35 to be computed from when his or her compensation was withheld up to the time of reinstatement.
36

37 **SECTION 10. *Barangay Social Welfare Office Units*** — There shall be three (3) units
38 under the office to be headed by the barangay social welfare officer: Poverty Alleviation, Women
39 and Children Welfare, and Crisis Management.

- a. Poverty Alleviation Unit facilitates the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the barangay.
- b. Crisis Management Unit aids in identifying recipients and in the submission of documentary requirements to avail material and financial assistance under the AICS Program of DSWD.
- c. Women and Children Welfare Unit assists in cases involving abuse or violence; and those who need special protection.

SECTION 11. Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities. — The barangay social welfare officer shall exercise the following powers, functions, and responsibilities for the corresponding units:

a. Poverty Alleviation

- i. Assist in the registration of household beneficiaries in the 4Ps:
 1. Coordinate with the local social welfare development office (“LSWDO”) in attesting to the identity and eligibility of the household beneficiaries of the 4Ps based on the list generated by the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (“PMED”) of the 4Ps National Program Management Office (“NPMO”).
 2. Post the list of eligible household beneficiaries in an open and conspicuous area such as but not limited to the barangay hall, covered courts, public bulletin boards, and daycare centers. The list shall include the schedule, venue, and required documents to be brought by the households during the community assembly organized for the program orientation session of 4Ps.
 3. Assist the LSWDO in organizing the community assembly where the eligible household will sign the Oath of Commitment and Landbank forms, and receive their Pantawid ID.
 4. If there are eligible households that cannot attend the community assembly, the officer shall facilitate the house-to-house registration, signing of the Oath and Landbank forms, and distribution of Pantawid ID.
- ii. Notify new and existing 4Ps beneficiaries of the requirements for updating their information. This may be done by posting a notice in an open and conspicuous place such as the barangay hall, covered courts, public bulletin boards, and daycare centers.

- 1 iii. Coordinate with the City or Municipal link or the LSWDO regarding the
2 beneficiary information update, and the status of the household
3 beneficiaries.
- 4 iv. Assist the City or Municipal link in the case management of household
5 beneficiaries in special and difficult circumstances or peculiar situations.
- 6 v. Lead case referrals for urgent cases requiring immediate intervention such
7 as protective custody, litigation and reporting, and medical and
8 psychosocial support.
- 9 vi. Establish a grievance desk to receive and record grievances from the
10 beneficiaries of the 4Ps. All grievances will be made into a report and
11 submitted to the city or municipal link grievance officers.
- 12 vii. Inform household beneficiaries of the schedule and venue of the distribution
13 of cash grants for over-the-counter payouts, and validate the identity of the
14 persons claiming the cash grants by checking their household identification
15 card issued by the DSWD.
- 16 viii. Facilitate the organizing of 4Ps parent and youth groups from household
17 beneficiaries who will be part of the conduct of monthly family and youth
18 development sessions.
- 19 ix. Assist in identifying existing household beneficiaries.
- 20
- 21 b. Crisis Management
- 22 i. Post the list of documentary requirements to receive financial or material
23 assistance in an open and conspicuous area.
- 24 ii. Conduct preliminary screening of the aforementioned requirements to
25 identify their completeness.
- 26 iii. Refer the person or persons affected by crises to the Crisis Intervention Unit
27 or Sections, Social Welfare, and Development, or Malasakit Centers nearest
28 to the barangay.
- 29 iv. Render preliminary psychological first aid and social work counseling for
30 those who are affected by crises.
- 31 v. In cases where the clients to be assisted are groups of individuals, the officer
32 shall set the date and venue for the distribution of assistance.
- 33
- 34 c. Women and Children Welfare
- 35 i. Receive reports of women and children who are neglected, abused, in need
36 of special protection, or victims of violence.
- 37 ii. Report such cases to the LSWDO, law enforcement agencies, and courts for
38 the filing of cases and issuance of social case studies.

- 1 iii. Accompany the victim to the nearest police station and coordinate with local
2 enforcement agencies, including the Women and Children Desk, for the
3 arrest of perpetrators and the protection of victims.
4 iv. In case the victim is a woman, the officer shall conduct counseling and
5 provide other psychosocial support to the victim. He or she must also assess
6 the victim's needs and safety, and inform her of the rights and available
7 remedies.
8 v. In case the victim is a child, the officer must conduct an initial assessment
9 of the child's safety and risks in the child's environment. If parents are
10 incapable of protecting the child or unavailable, he or she shall have
11 temporary supervision over the child.
12

13 **SECTION 12. *Employment.*** — There shall be three (3) barangay social welfare
14 employees whom the barangay social welfare officer shall employ. The officer has the discretion
15 to prescribe qualifications necessary for the position, provided that it is not contrary to the law.
16

17 **SECTION 13. *Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities.*** — The barangay social welfare
18 officer shall assign the barangay social welfare employees to each of the sub-units to assist him or
19 her in the performance of his or her responsibilities.
20

21 **SECTION 14. *Compensation.*** — The existing law governing wages in the region where
22 the barangay is located shall apply in determining the salaries of the barangay social welfare
23 employees.
24

25 **SECTION 15. *Code of Conduct.*** — The barangay social welfare officer and his or her
26 employees shall be guided by the Social Work Code of Ethics as adopted by the Board of Social
27 Work and approved by the Professional Regulation Commission ("PRC"). Furthermore, the
28 employees shall abide by the rules set by the officer to maintain order and discipline in the
29 workplace.
30

31 **SECTION 16. *Rights of the Barangay Social Welfare Officer and Employee*** — Section
32 17 of Republic Act No. 9433 or the Magna Carta for Public Social Workers shall govern the rights
33 of the barangay social welfare officer and his or her employees.
34

35 **SECTION 17. *Hours of Work.*** — The barangay social welfare officer and his or her
36 employees shall work for not exceeding eight (8) hours a day or forty (40) hours a week.
37

38 **SECTION 18. *Overtime work.*** In cases where their service is required beyond the
39 prescribed hours of work, inclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, or non-working holidays, the barangay

1 social welfare officer and his or her employees shall be paid additional compensation following
2 the law.

3
4 **SECTION 19. *Leave Benefits.*** — The barangay social welfare officer and his or her
5 employees shall be entitled to leave benefits provided by law, such as but not limited to sick leaves,
6 maternity leave, and paternity leave.

7
8 **SECTION 20. *Other Benefits.*** — Benefits enumerated in Section 15 of the Magna Carta
9 for Public Social Workers shall be granted to the barangay social welfare officer and his or her
10 employees.

11
12 **SECTION 21. *Application of the Magna Carta of Public Social Workers*** — The
13 implementation of this Act shall be supplemented by the other provisions of the Magna Carta of
14 Public Social Workers.

15
16 **SECTION 22. *Appropriations.*** — The amount necessary to implement the provisions of
17 this Act, and its continued implementation thereafter, shall be included in the annual General
18 Appropriations Act.

19
20 **SECTION 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — The Department of Social
21 Welfare and Development and the Department of Interior and Local Government, in consultation
22 with the Civil Service Commission and the National Labor Relations Commission, shall formulate
23 the rules and regulations, consistent with the provisions of this law, for its implementation, within
24 six (6) months from its effectivity.

25
26 **SECTION 24. *Separability Clause.***— If, for any reason, any section of this Act shall be
27 deemed unconstitutional and invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected
28 and shall remain in force and effect.

29
30 **SECTION 25. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions,
31 rules, and regulations, contrary to or inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are repealed or
32 amended accordingly.

33
34 **SECTION 26. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
35 publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

36
37 *Approved,*