

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1865



Introduced by: HONORABLE ROSEMARIE CONEJOS PANOTES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The granting of Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) by the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) was mandated under the Special Provision No. 3 of the General Appropriations Act of 2024. The paramount objective of the Program is to provide financial assistance to minimum wage earners falling under the category of low income that were severely affected by rising inflation.

Many of qualified beneficiaries of this Program have been clamouring that this shall be made a permanent fixture of the government's assistance to low-income earners who had been severely affected by the skyrocketing cost of prime commodities.

Through this Program, the government, through DSWD extends, in the form of outright cash, food assistance, medical assistance, funeral assistance and cash relief assistance, and through the local government units, rice assistance, also in the form of outright cash, to purchase rice in order to meet the nutritional requirements for sustenance. The amount of assistance is subject to certain requirements and limitations prescribed under this Act.

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

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


ROSEMARIE CONEJOS PANOTES
Representative
Second District, Camarines Norte

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **1865**

Introduced by: **HONORABLE ROSEMARIE CONEJOS PANOTES**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANTING OF AYUDA SA KAPOK ANG KITA PROGRAM (AKAP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), 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 *“Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) Act.”*

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to affirm labor as a primary social economic force and to protect the rights of minimum wage earners and promote their welfare. Toward this end, the disadvantaged workers, and families must be lifted from the quagmire of poverty by providing assistance geared towards alleviating and improving the quality of life of every worker, especially the minimum wage earners.

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

- a. Akap - refers to the Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) that will provide financial assistance to minimum wage earners falling under the category of low income;
- b. Beneficiary - pertains to an individual whose income does not exceed the statutory minimum wage and who is severely affected by the rising inflation;
- c. Case Summary - pertains to a document prepared by any professional social worker that shall state the socio-economic situation of the client or beneficiary, as well as his or her assessment and recommendation for said client or beneficiary;
- d. Certificate of Eligibility (CE) - refers to the document issued by the DSWD, proving that the client is eligible to receive the services under the AKAP;
- e. Crossmatching - refers to the process of checking the information or data sets provided by the beneficiary or representative and counter-checking it with the information and data sets in the DSWD database;

- f. General Intake Sheet (GIS) – refers to the form used by the DSWD social workers to obtain basic information of the beneficiary and the authorized representative, the problem presented, and the assessment and recommended assistance;
- g. Guarantee Letter (GL) – refers to a document issued by the DSWD in favour of the beneficiary addressed to service providers to guarantee the payment of goods or services;
- h. Minimum Wage Earners – refers to the low-income individuals earning minimum wages mandated by the respective Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board (RTWPB) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- i. Service Providers – refers to hospitals, funeral homes and other service providers such as but not limited to, diagnostic laboratories, clinics, drugstores, among others which are willing to accept the GLs issued by the DSWD for payment of goods or services for the beneficiary; and
- j. Social Case Study Report (SCSR) – refers to the document prepared by a professional Social Worker in public and private practice, that describes in detail the situation and conditions of the beneficiary, including his/her social history. The document likewise includes assessment, plan for intervention and recommendation.

SEC. 4. Modalities in Providing Assistance under the Program. – The grant of financial assistance to qualified beneficiaries shall be implemented through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and through its partner, local government units subject to the following guidelines:

A. Implementation through the DSWD

The qualified beneficiaries who need financial assistance for goods and services may avail of the following:

- a) Food Assistance
- b) Medical Assistance
- c) Funeral Assistance
- d) Cash Relief Assistance

Financial Assistance may be given in outright cash if the amount of assistance ranges from five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) to P15,000.00), subject to the assessment of the DSWD worker. For assistance above fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00), the same shall be provided through a Guarantee Letter approved by the Secretary of the DSWD or his duly authorized representative.

The distribution of assistance is without prejudice to adoption of digital payment solutions once the necessary infrastructure is in place.

B. Implementation through Local Government Units

The financial assistance that will be provided to qualified beneficiaries through the LGUs shall be called rice assistance. This form of assistance shall be used to purchase rice to meet the nutritional requirements for sustenance. For this purpose the DSWD shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the local government units to provide the details of the transfer of funds and the requirements for its liquidation, in accordance with the existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

The amount of rice assistance that can be provided to qualified beneficiaries shall be equivalent to half of the cost of twenty-five (25) kilograms

(DA). The amount of each transfer to the LGU shall not exceed Thirty million pesos (P30,000,000.00).

The financial assistance under this Act may complement any support provided by the LGU, government agencies, and non-government organizations. A beneficiary who has received rice assistance through the LGU may still qualify to receive medical, funeral or cash relief assistance from the DSWD subject to the requirements under this Act, and professional assessment of the DSWD social worker.

SEC. 5. *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. 6. *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. 7. *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,