



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 3787

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Introduced by **REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN** and **REP. REYNOLDS MICHAEL TAN**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The most seriously disadvantaged individuals and families throughout the archipelago are experiencing various predicaments brought about by several dysfunctional situations such as poor health conditions, natural and man-made calamities, and other crisis situations. The detrimental effects of these situations are even magnified by the continued resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

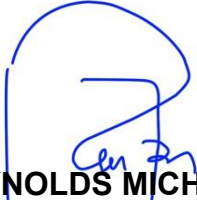
All taken together, the aforementioned circumstances result in poor living conditions affecting the vulnerable populations of the country. This further leads to their inability to meet even their basic needs.

Given this dire situation, the Department of Social Welfare and Development was able to devise the Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program that aims to uplift the situation of vulnerable individuals and families in the country by providing an efficient way to access and avail of basic social services: transportation assistance, medical assistance, burial assistance, educational assistance, food assistance, cash assistance, psychosocial intervention, or referral to other services. This program is envisioned to be a viable means to uplift the status of the marginalized population of the country.

Accordingly, this Bill seeks to institutionalize the Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program of the DSWD to transform it into a permanent national program.

Foregoing considered, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN**  
First District, Samar

  
**REP. REYNOLDS MICHAEL T. TAN**  
Second District, Samar



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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS SITUATION (AICS) PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

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*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 (AICS) Act*”.

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to provide immediate assistance to all seriously disadvantaged individuals who are experiencing various predicaments brought about by several dysfunctional situations such as poor health conditions, natural and man-made calamities, and other crisis situations. Priority shall be given to the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized sectors of Society. Adequate and sustainable assistance in the form of programs and services shall be given to individuals and families who are immediately in need thereof.

**SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** – The words, language, and expression found in this Ordinance shall be interpreted in accordance with their usual meaning and usage, in such a manner that would most accurately depict the legislative intent. As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a) *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) *Burial Assistance* – refers to assistance to defray funeral and related expenses;
- c) *Crisis Situation* – refers to a condition whereby an individual or group of persons are faced with a different and stressful situation resulting in the impairment of his/her psychosocial functioning thereby needing a series of interventions to prevent further exposures to vulnerabilities, exploitation, and abuse;
- d) *Educational Assistance* – refers to the assistance given to eligible students to help defray school expenses and/or the cost sending of sending students/children to school.
- e) *Financial and/or Material Assistance* – refers to the provision of monetary support in the form of outright cash/or guarantee letter to service providers to augment the

resources of the beneficiary, which include, but are not limited to, transportation assistance, medical assistance, burial assistance, and educational assistance.

- f) *Food Assistance* – refers to the assistance to beneficiaries to be utilized for meals.
- g) *Medical Assistance* – refers to assistance to help shoulder hospitalization expenses, cost of medicines other medical treatment or procedures, or professional fees.
- 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 either permanently or to 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. Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) Program.** – The Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Program shall provide financial or material assistance to individuals or families whose normal functioning has been hampered due to difficult situations brought about by dysfunctional situations that may be caused by poor health conditions, natural and man-made calamities, and other crisis situations.

**SECTION 5. Types of Assistance.** The AICS Program shall provide qualified beneficiaries with transportation assistance, medical assistance, burial assistance, educational assistance, food assistance, cash assistance, psychosocial intervention, or referral to other services.

**SECTION 6. Rates of Assistance.** – The rate of financial assistance to be provided to the qualified beneficiaries herein shall be based on the assessment and recommendation of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

**SECTION 6. Conditions for Eligibility Under the AICS Program.** – The qualified beneficiaries of the AICS Program shall be identified following the parameters that shall be established by the DSWD. The DSWD shall also establish guidelines identifying the appropriate documentary requirements for each type of assistance granted under this AICS Program. Provided, that each beneficiary seeking assistance under this Act shall be subject to screening, verification, and assessment of the beneficiaries' needs by social workers.

**SECTION 7. Department of Social Welfare and Development as the lead agency.** – The DSWD shall serve as the lead agency for the central planning, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring of the Program.

**SECTION 8. Annual Report of the Program** – There shall be an annual report as to the implementation of the program to be published by the DSWD every fiscal year. The report shall consist of the number of beneficiaries served, financial disclosures, and recommendations of the President, Congress, and concerned agencies relating to the further enhancement of the program.

**SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development in coordination with the appropriate Government department and agencies and with the full participation of all Local Government Units, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to ensure the efficient implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 10. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment and thereafter.

**SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders and rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*