

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 4961



Introduced by Representatives EDVIC G. YAP and ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

While the national poverty incidence among families declined from 13.2% in 2021 to 10.9% in 2023, many Filipinos remain vulnerable, particularly Indigenous Peoples (32.4%), fisherfolk (27.4%), and farmers (27.0%)¹. In rural and geographically isolated areas, poverty is compounded by limited access to basic services, infrastructure, and livelihood opportunities.

The Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach directly addresses these gaps by placing communities, especially the poor and marginalized, at the center of development. Through CDD, communities take the lead in identifying needs, designing solutions, managing resources, and monitoring results. This participatory model ensures that interventions are relevant, efficient, and sustainable.

The experience of the Pugo Women's Association (PWA) in Buguias, Benguet, demonstrates the transformative impact of CDD. In a community where farming is the primary livelihood, poor road conditions often meant that harvested vegetables rotted before reaching the market, which then caused income loss and financial strain. When KALAHÍ-CIDSS was introduced, the PWA led the proposal and implementation of a farm-to-market road subproject. Beyond improving product transport and household income, the process strengthened women's voices in decision-making, enhanced their technical and leadership skills, and fostered a culture of gender equality. For their achievements in transparent, inclusive project management, the PWA received the DSWD PaNaTa Ko Award in 2021².

This bill seeks to institutionalize the CDD approach as a national strategy for poverty reduction, inclusive growth, and social protection. It will require national agencies and local government units to adopt CDD in their community-based programs, ensuring that people most especially those from basic sectors, are directly involved in planning and implementing projects that affect their lives.

¹ Gonzales, Anna L. 2025. "Poverty incidence in 10 basic sectors down in 2023." Philippine News Agency. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1247183>.

² Aragon, Raniel A. n.d. "Paano Nakamit ng mga Kababaihan ng Benguet ang Empowerment." KALAHÍ-CIDSS DSWD. Accessed August 11, 2025. Paano Nakamit ng mga Kababaihan ng Benguet ang Empowerment.

This bill will also establish the CDD Knowledge and Resource Institute as the lead policy, research, and capacity-building arm for the approach to train communities, local governments, and civil society partners as well as to mobilize resources to support grassroots-led initiatives. By embedding CDD into national and local governance structures through the work of the Institute, the bill will enable communities to drive their own development, improve access to essential services, strengthen disaster resilience, and ensure that public resources are used effectively and transparently.

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



HON. EDVIC G. YAP


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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Introduced by Representatives EDVIC G. YAP and ERIC G. YAP

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT
APPROACH AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND
SOCIAL PROTECTION, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CDD
KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCE INSTITUTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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 “*Community-Driven Development (CDD) Approach Institutionalization Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to uplift the standard of living and quality of life of the poor and provide them with sustained opportunities for growth and development. The State also recognized that the right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The State shall, by law, facilitate the establishment of adequate consultation mechanisms.

Towards this end, and in pursuit of sustainable and inclusive growth and poverty reduction, the State shall enact programs that provide opportunities for community members particularly the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized to effectively participate in designing, planning, budgeting, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating community programs, activities, and projects (PAPs).

Further, the State shall provide capacity-building opportunities for local government units, civil society organizations, and communities to ensure the proper use of the CDD approach in implementing local PAPs.

SEC 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a. *Basic sectors* refer to the disadvantaged sectors of Philippine society including farmer-peasants, fisherfolk, workers in the formal sector including migrant workers, workers in the informal sectors, indigenous peoples and cultural

communities, women, persons with disability, senior citizens, victims of calamities and disasters, youth and students, children, urban poor, and members of cooperatives.

- b. *Community Member* refers to all residents of a particular province, city, municipality or barangay from various sectors including Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and business entities.
- c. *Community-based programs* refer to programs, activities, or projects that are designed, planned, organized and implemented locally by community members or groups to address community-identified plans and needs;
- d. *Community-driven development (CDD)* refers to an approach that gives control over the development process, decision-making, and resources to community members or groups and treats people as assets and partners in the development process while building on their institutions and resources, and
- e. *Community empowerment* refers to a process of enabling groups to increase control over the factors and decisions that shape their lives, including their assets and attributes, partners, networks, and voice.

SEC 4. Elements of CDD. – The CDD approach has the following elements:

- a. Community focus wherein programs or projects put primacy on a group of people living in a particular locality or geographical area such as a barangay, ancestral domain, or specific subsets thereof, where interventions are implemented;
- b. Participatory planning wherein the process directly involves the community members, leaders, and other stakeholders in diagnosing local problems and designing a course of action to resolve those problems, and aims to harmonize views among all of its participants and provide opportunities for the engagement especially of the marginalized groups;
- c. Community control of resources wherein the utilization and management of the resources by the community members or groups are based on community-identified plans and needs;
- d. Community-managed implementation wherein the execution, monitoring, and contract management of community-identified projects are performed by community members or groups, with assistance from the local government units (LGUs) and other local partners; and
- e. Participatory monitoring and evaluation wherein the process through which members at various levels of the community engage in monitoring and evaluating a program or policy, share control over the content, the process and the results of the monitoring and evaluation activity, and participate in identifying and making corrective actions.

SEC 5. *Institutionalization of the CDD Approach.* – National government agencies (NGAs) and departments, including their attached agencies and offices, bureaus, other government instrumentalities, and LGUs shall adopt the CDD approach in their community-based programs to promote participation and empowerment of poor, vulnerable, disadvantaged, and marginalized groups within communities.

SEC 6. *Operationalization of the CDD Approach.* – NGAs and LGUs in community-based programs shall be responsible for:

- a. Developing policies for enhancing participatory governance practices, tapping community organizations particularly the basic sectors, and responding to community needs;
- b. Providing information on government intervention, technical assistance and support to partner communities for more effective community-driven planning and implementation;
- c. Enabling community members to meaningfully participate in the whole process;
- d. Ensuring that community members are prioritized, to the extent possible, in receiving employment opportunities brought about by project implementation at the communities;
- e. Ensuring that identified community priorities are sufficiently funded; and
- f. Accrediting and ensuring participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) as partners in organizing and strengthening communities, and implementing community-based PAPs.

SEC 7. *Role of Accredited Civil Society Organizations and the Academe.* – Accredited CSOs and academic institutions are encouraged to participate in community activities, specifically by:

- a. Facilitating the community empowerment processes;
- b. Providing continuous capacity-building and technology transfer to LGUs and communities;
- c. Conducting third party monitoring and evaluation of capacity building and empowerment of LGUs and communities; and
- d. Providing additional funding or collaborating with partners or donors to implement capacity-building and empowerment of LGUs and communities.

For the purposes of this section, the CDD community of practice refers to a community of CDD practitioners comprised of agencies, NGOs, academic and research institutions, and individuals, who share the commitment and passion for CDD, and together strive to advance its practice through regular and purposive interaction.

SEC. 8. *Incentives.* – The exemplary use of the CDD approach by NGAs and LGUs shall be considered as a significant criterion for the recognition given to LGUs such as the Seal of Good Local Governance by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other awards by NGAs.

SEC 9. *Advisory Council.* – An Advisory Council on CDD Institutionalization is created to develop policies relative to the implementation of this Act.

The Advisory Council is composed of the following:

- a. Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, as chairperson;
- b. Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, as co-chairperson; and
- c. Representatives from the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), and Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD).

The representatives include the secretaries of the agencies as the officially designated permanent members and designated undersecretaries as alternate representatives.

The Advisory Council shall have, as additional members, representatives of accredited NGOs which shall constitute not less than one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the members of the Advisory Council, and shall be appointed by the Advisory Council to serve for three (3) years from the date of their appointment. Thereafter, the representatives shall be selected from and appointed by the CDD community of practice.

Advisory councils at the regional levels are also established with the regional directors of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and DILG, as chairperson and co-chairperson, respectively, and representatives from the regional offices of NAPC, NEDA, DBM, DA, DAR, DENR, DOH, DepEd, DHSUD, and from accredited NGOs, as members.

SEC 10. *Functions of Advisory Council.* – The Advisory Council shall have the following functions:

- a. Meet regularly to promote coordination among agencies to enhance and promote the use of the CDD approach;
- b. Implement the incentives program to enhance and promote the use of the CDD approach by NGAs and LGUs;
- c. Implement a grievance redress mechanism that accepts and resolves complaints pertaining to the implementation of this Act;
- d. Provide the monitoring and assessment report on the implementation of this Act, post the same on the DSWD website, and submit an annual report to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee; and
- e. Recommend to the President of the Philippines measures and policies for the responsive delivery of commitments under this Act and integration into the general poverty reduction strategy of the National Government.

SEC 11. *Establishment of the CDD Knowledge and Resource Institute.* – The CDD Knowledge and Resource Institute, hereinafter referred to as the Institute, is established as a non-stock, non-profit Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC) with its own charter, attached to the DSWD. The Institute is a policy, research, and training arm of the Advisory Council, which shall provide support for continuing research and technology development, partnership development, policy advocacy, resource mobilization, capacity-building of communities, monitoring and evaluation to ensure effective institutionalization and operationalization of the CDD framework.

SEC 12. *Functions and Powers of the Institute.* –

- a. The Institute shall have the following functions;
 1. Policy advocacy;
 2. Learning and development;
 - a. Development of CDD resource pool, a group of experts on CDD principles and implementation who possess expertise in CDD to codevelop the certification and accreditation programs and other learning and development requirements of the staff, partner, and other stakeholders;
 - b. Certification of CDD organizations, institutions, and individual practitioners who shall either be partners of the program or part of its human resources; and
 - c. Continuing professional development through partner academic institutions.
 3. Knowledge management and technology development;
 4. Regular monitoring and evaluations;
 - a. Resource mobilization: partnership and linkages; and
 - b. Convergence.
 5. Secretariat support services to the Advisory Council

- b. Subject to existing applicable laws, the Institute shall exercise the following powers:
 - 1. Accept donations and other forms of assistance in accordance with applicable laws and issuances for purposes relevant to the implementation of this Act;
 - 2. Collect, receive, and maintain funds, donations, and other forms of assistance and apply the income and principal thereof to the promotion of its aims and purposes;
 - 3. Contract any obligation or enter into any agreement necessary or incidental to the proper management of its powers; and
 - 4. Carry on any activity and exercise all of the powers conferred by laws upon private corporations or GOCCs, and do any and all of the acts and things prescribed under this Act.
- c. The Institute may charge socialized fees, as determined by the Board, on all applications for certifications, trainings, and other services rendered by the Institute.

SEC 13. *Board of Directors.* –The Institute shall be under the direct supervision of a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, composed of the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development as Chairperson and at least four (4) other members from CSOs and the academe, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development.

The appointive members of the Board shall serve for a term of four (4) years. Of those first appointed, one shall serve for four (4) years, one for three (3) years, one for two (2) years and one for one (1) year, respectively. Appointment to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired term of the predecessor. No appointive member of the Board shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SEC 14. *Functions of the Board.* –The Board shall have the following functions:

- a. Formulate and adopt policies and measures for the management and operation of the Institute;
- b. Appoint the president of the Institute who shall come from among the appointive members of the Board. The president shall, among others, exercise the power to appoint, promote, discipline or remove the personnel of the Institute ;
- c. Approve the staffing pattern of the Institute;

- d. Promulgate rules and regulations for the discharge of its powers and functions and the internal operations of the Institute;
- e. Manage the financial affairs of the Institute and approve an annual budget of the Institute according to its requirements; and
- f. Monitor and review the programs and projects of the Institute.

SEC 15. *President of the Institute; Powers and Functions.* – The President of the Institute is the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute and is entitled to receive such salary and remuneration as may be determined by the Board in accordance with existing laws, and rules and regulations.

The Presidents shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a. Prepare, for the approval of the Board, the staffing pattern of the Institute which includes the determination of the qualification standards, the number and compensation of officials and other personnel as may be necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the Institute;
- b. Exercise control and supervision over the personnel, staff, operations, and internal administration of the Institute in accordance with existing laws and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board;
- c. Recommend to the Board such policies and measures necessary for the effective exercise and discharge of the powers and functions of the Institute; and
- d. Submit an annual report to the Board on the operations, status of the programs funded by, and financial condition of the Institute, including a recommendation for its budget for the ensuing year.

SEC 16. *Endowment Fund.* – There is hereby established an endowment fund which shall consist of voluntary contributions, donations, grants, or loans from domestic or foreign sources, government subsidies and other income accruing from the operations of the Institute. This Fund shall be subject to audit by the Commission on Audit (COA).

SEC 17. *Implementing Agencies.* –

- a. ***DSWD as lead agency*** – As lead agency for the implementation of this Act, the DSWD shall integrate in their regular operations the following functions:
 - 1. Facilitate support to empower community members to participate in the local development processes and to strengthen community capabilities to engage LGUs, NGAs, and other stakeholders to support community-identified priorities;

2. Institutionalize capacity-building and learning on CDD for NGAs, CSOs, private sector institutions, and other partners;
 3. Accredit CSOs to become partners in the use of CDD approach; and
 4. Provide technical assistance and resource augmentation by ensuring integration of municipal development plans into provincial development plans
- b. *DILG as a key partner in mobilizing the basic sectors.* – The DILG shall support the Institute in the capacity building of LGUs and communities.
 - c. *NAPC as a key partner in mobilizing the basic sectors.* – The NAPC shall be a key partner agency in the development of policies and measures to ensure meaningful representation and active participation of the basic sectors in their local development.
 - d. *Public Accountability and Governance* - The Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) shall oversee the Institute to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency. It shall monitor performance, suggest reforms, if any, and make sure that the Institute aligns with national development goals.
 - e. *Support from relevant government agencies.* – All relevant bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall render the necessary support to the implementation of this Act. The various government agencies identified under this Act and the concerned LGUs shall implement this Act using the whole-of-government approach, which provides a logical and systematic convergence of efforts of NGAs and LGUs to respond to the identified community needs, issues, concerns, and priorities.

SEC 18. Regular Monitoring and Reporting. – The Advisory Council shall monitor the implementation of this Act and submit an annual report of its status to the Office of the President and to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. The report must also be regularly posted on the DSWD Website and updated for the public's information. A process assessment shall be conducted by DSWD once every three (3) years, the results of which shall be utilized to stimulate more program lessons exchange, experience sharing, public dialogues, policy discussions and generating inputs for program design works on CDD. Mechanisms for promoting third-party monitoring and evaluation of this Act by NGOs and CSOs, together with community members and LGUs, shall also be established.

SEC 19. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. – A Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, hereafter referred to as the Oversight Committee is hereby constituted. The Oversight Committee shall set the overall framework to review the implementation of this Act. It shall also determine the inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend the necessary remedial legislation or executive measures.

The Oversight Committee is composed of fourteen (14) 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 chamber, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President, respectively.

The review of the implementation of this Act must include a systematic evaluation of its impact, accomplishments of the program, and performance of its implementing agencies. The Oversight Committee shall conduct the review every three (3) years reckoned from the effectivity of this Act, or whenever deemed necessary by a majority of the members of the Oversight Committee.

SEC 20. *Preferential Option for Basic Sectors in Capacity-building.* – The Institute shall prioritize the capacity building of communities with identified members of basic sectors.

SEC 21. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current year's appropriations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 22. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, in coordination with national government agency members of the Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster, with the participation of the league of barangays, cities, municipalities, and provinces, and relevant stakeholders, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC 23. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC 24. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, presidential proclamations, letters of implementation, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved