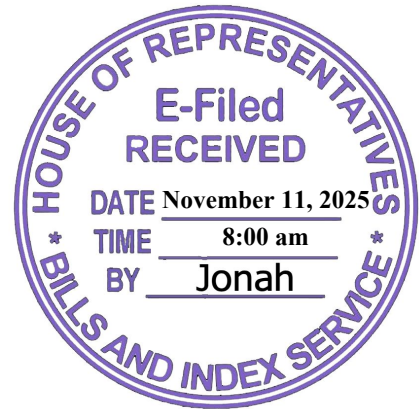


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5792



**Introduced by Representatives Lani Mercado-Revilla and
Ramon Jolo B. Revilla III**

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANTING OF ASSISTANCE TO
INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS SITUATION (AICS), PROVIDING SAFEGUARDS
AGAINST ABUSE, IMPOSING COMPLIANCE OBLIGATIONS FOR
BENEFICIARIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution enjoins the State to uphold the welfare of its people. In a world where inequality exists – not of their own doing – individuals in crisis situations need the intervention of the government to be able to survive, if not meet their needs. In 2023, it was reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) that the poverty incidence or proportion of poor Filipinos was at 15.5% or (just) 17.5 million poor Filipinos.¹ IBON asserts that this is a severely underestimated figure.

Efforts to ease the troubles of our poor countrymen have been a consistent theme in our government. Programs and projects to uplift their welfare are implemented by many government agencies. There are sometimes success stories, but there are hits and misses that suggest that more is needed.

Yet the glaring truth is that, despite our best efforts, many Filipinos continue to be disadvantaged. As much as we believe in the adage, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you will feed him for a lifetime,” we also are keenly aware that the present is a problem that needs urgent response. The Government, with resources that it can mobilize to address the multifarious concerns of the nation and its people, must

¹ IBON Foundation. (19 August 2024). <https://www.ibon.org/official-poverty-stats-underestimate-poor-filipinos/?tztc=1>. Accessed on 13 October 2025.

institutionalize a system to respond to a need during a significant time in the life of an individual's or one's family.

This bill proposes the institutionalization of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis (AICS) program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). It is a program that gives food, transportation, educational, medical, burial and cash assistance to those in need. It is a stop-gap measure that has helped thousands of people that experience unexpected life events.²

Amongst the many programs of our government, the AICS has directly impacted its beneficiaries' lives in truly positive ways. There is no question that it is a desirable component of the assistance extended by our government, and there is a demand for it.

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



REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA



REP. RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III

² Department of Social Welfare and Development. (n.d.) Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation. <https://fo1.dswd.gov.ph/programs/frontline-services/assistance-to-individuals-in-crisis-situations/>. Accessed on 22 October 2025.

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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 Act.”

Sec. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** — It is hereby declared the policy of
the State to value the dignity of every human being and guarantee full
respect for human rights. Towards this end, disadvantaged individuals,
families, and communities must be liberated from the quagmire of poverty
by providing assistance, projects, programs, and services geared towards
alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life for every Filipino, while
ensuring transparency and accountability in public spending.

Sec. 3. **Definition of Terms.**

- a) Target Beneficiaries — Individuals who are in a crisis situation based
on assessment by licensed social workers using an objective,
standardized scoring system developed by the DSWD.
- b) National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-
PR) — An information management system that identifies who and
where the poor are in the country.

c) Crisis Situation — A condition whereby individuals are faced with different and stressful circumstances resulting in the impairment of their psychosocial functioning, thereby needing a series of interventions to prevent further exposure to vulnerabilities, exploitation, and abuse.

d) Financial Assistance — Provision of monetary support in the form of direct payments or guarantee letters to service providers, to augment the resources of the client for medical, transportation, burial, educational, or other justifiable needs.

Sec. 4. Assistance To Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS). — Each qualified target beneficiary shall receive financial assistance equivalent to at least Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and, in extremely justifiable cases, the amount of assistance shall not exceed One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

Financial assistance shall be disbursed directly to service providers through guarantee letters or digital payment platforms whenever practicable to minimize opportunities for misuse and patronage.

AICS assistance in cash shall not be distributed in venues other than the DSWD offices. In no case shall posters or printed materials of any kind with any politicians' names be displayed at or near the venue.

Sec. 5. Type, Kind, and Amount of Financial Assistance. — The type, kind, and amount of financial assistance shall be determined based on the assessment and recommendation of licensed social workers, using a standardized and objective scoring system anchored on verifiable documentation of need, and duly approved by authorized officials of the DSWD.

A database of beneficiaries shall be maintained, integrated with the NHTS-PR, and updated regularly to detect and prevent duplicate or ineligible claims.

Sec. 5-A. Beneficiary Obligations and Compliance.

a) Qualified beneficiaries, except those who are permanently disabled or incapacitated, shall undertake any of the following as a condition for receiving assistance:

1. Attendance in a DSWD-approved financial literacy, livelihood, or skills training session; or
2. Participation in community service or local government-identified volunteer activities for at least two (2) days.

b) Beneficiaries shall sign a written agreement outlining their obligations, including truthful disclosure of household circumstances. Willful misrepresentation or fraud shall result in disqualification from receiving AICS benefits for a period of one (1) year, subject to appeal and reassessment by the DSWD.

c) Failure to comply with agreed obligations without justifiable cause shall likewise result in suspension of assistance for one (1) year.

Sec. 6. Oversight, Transparency, and Accountability. -

a) The DSWD shall publish an annual report containing aggregated data on the number of beneficiaries served, total funds disbursed, regional distribution, and beneficiary compliance rates. Personally identifiable information shall be excluded but sufficient details must be provided to ensure transparency.

b) Disbursement of AICS funds shall be subject to random annual audits by the Commission on Audit (COA). The COA shall publish audit findings and recommend corrective measures.

c) Local government units, members of Congress, or any political official shall not have discretion or authority in selecting or endorsing individual beneficiaries, to safeguard against the use of the program as a tool for patronage.

Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within six (6) months of the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation.

Sec. 8. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DSWD for the fiscal year following its enactment into law and thereafter included in the General Appropriations Act.

Sec.9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions or sections of this Act and the application of such provision or section to other persons or circumstances, not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec.10. **Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Sec.11. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,