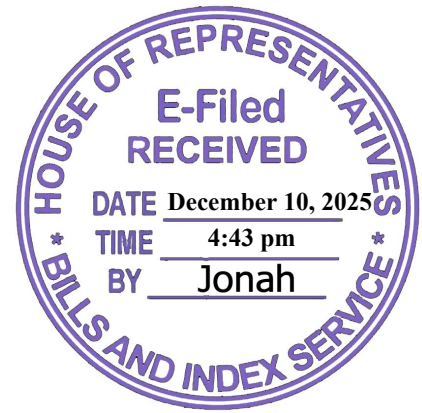


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. **6787**



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), institutionalized through Republic Act No. 11310, is the national government's flagship social protection program aimed at breaking the cycle of poverty by investing in the health, nutrition, and education of poor households.

While the program has demonstrated significant gains in improving school enrollment, healthful practices, and poverty reduction, persistent challenges such as malnutrition continue to undermine the well-being of Filipino children.

Children in the poorest households experience the highest rates of malnutrition, which directly affects cognitive development, learning outcomes, and long-term earning potential. Hunger and poor dietary intake likewise impede parents' capacity to work productively, reinforcing the cycle of poverty the State seeks to end.

Recognizing that nutrition is both a fundamental right and a prerequisite for national development, this proposed measure seeks to expand the scope of the Act and improve the targeting mechanisms under the 4Ps by:

1. Amending eligibility criteria to ensure that households with undernourished children are included;
2. Introducing a Food and Nutrition Grant, a monthly support enabling households to access healthy and nutritious food consistent with the national nutrition guidelines;
3. Enhancing monitoring and evaluation systems in coordination with the National Nutrition Council and local health units to ensure that nutritional interventions are evidence-based and effective; and

4. Prioritizing food-poor households to ensure that those living below the subsistence threshold receive targeted assistance.

In view of the urgent need to eradicate malnutrition, strengthen human capital, and promote equitable development, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nina Lacson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nina" and last name "Lacson" clearly distinguishable.

MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON

Manila Teachers Party-list

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. **6787**

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING BENEFICIARY IDENTIFICATION AND TARGETING
MECHANISMS, INCLUSION OF A FOOD AND NUTRITION GRANT AND
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS "AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO
PROGRAM (4Ps)"

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 "Food and Nutrition
Grant Through the 4Ps Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is declared the policy of the State to promote a just,
humane, and productive society that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the
country, which is free from poverty and inequity, made possible through policies that
provide adequate social services and promote full employment, a rising standard of
living, and an improved quality of life for all.

In a society that upholds human dignity, hunger and malnutrition are
unacceptable and must be eradicated through a whole-of-society approach. As such,
nutrition shall be a priority of the government to be implemented by all its branches in
collaboration with non-government organizations and the private sector in an integrated
manner.

It shall be the State policy to:

(1) Defend and promote the rights and welfare of children through an
empowerment process where parents are educated on responsible parenthood while
providing a system that ensures proper care, nutrition, and special protection from all

forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

(2) Eliminate hunger and reduce all forms of malnutrition in children; and

(3) Prioritize nutrition as both an end-goal and a means to achieve development through multi-sectoral engagement with focus on nutritionally and economically depressed areas, communities, and households.

SEC. 3. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 11310 is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 6. Eligible Beneficiaries. - Farmers, fisherfolks, homeless families, indigenous peoples, those in the informal settler sector, **HOUSEHOLDS WITH UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN AGED ZERO (0) TO SIX (6)**, and those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, including those in areas without electricity shall be automatically included in the standardized targeting system to be conducted by the DSWD: Provided, That to be eligible for cash grants, households or families must meet the following criteria:"

"a) Classified as poor and near-poor based on the Standardized Targeting System and the poverty threshold issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) at the time of selection;"

"b) Have members who are aged zero (0) to eighteen (18) years old or have members who are pregnant at the time of registration; and"

"c) Willing to comply with the conditions specified by this Act."

SEC. 4. Section 7 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 7. Conditional Cash Transfer to Beneficiaries. - The Advisory Council shall determine the amount of conditional cash transfer to beneficiaries with the following schemes:"

"a) Conditional cash transfer grant per child enrolled in day care and elementary programs shall not be lower than Three Hundred Pesos (PhP 300.00) per month per child for a maximum of ten (10) months per year;"

"b) Conditional cash transfer grant per child enrolled in junior high school shall not be lower than Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 500.00) per month per child for a maximum of ten (10) months per year;"

"c) Conditional cash transfer grant per child enrolled in senior high

school shall not be lower than Seven Hundred Pesos (PhP 700.00) per month per child for a maximum of ten (10) months per year;"

"d) Health grant shall not be lower than Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (PhP 750.00) per month for a maximum of twelve (12) months per year; AND"

"e) FOOD AND NUTRITION GRANT SHALL NOT BE LOWER THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) PER MONTH FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWELVE (12) MONTHS PER YEAR."

"The health and food and nutrition grant components aim to promote healthy practices and family development, improve the health status of pregnant and post-partum mothers, infants and young children, and increase the use of health services by the household-beneficiary."

"THE FOOD AND NUTRITION GRANT AIMS TO ADDRESS IF NOT ERADICATE MALNUTRITION BY EMPOWERING POOR HOUSEHOLDS TO PURCHASE HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD AS PRESCRIBED IN THE *PINGGANG PINOY* BASED ON NUTRITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR FILIPINOS (OR ANY FUTURE GUIDELINES THAT MAY BE ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL."

"AN APPROPRIATE MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY DSWD AND RELEVANT AGENCIES SUCH AS THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL TO ENSURE THAT THE FOOD AND NUTRITION GRANT IS USED FOR THE PURPOSE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THIS LAW, DSWD MAY ISSUE IT IN THE FORM OF FOOD VOUCHER OR SIMILAR FORM IN THE CORRESPONDING AMOUNT, UNLESS CASH IS STILL OBSERVED TO BE THE MORE EFFICIENT WAY OF DISTRIBUTION."

SEC. 5. Section 11 of the same Act is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 11. Conditions for Entitlement. ALL QUALIFIED HOUSEHOLD-BENEFICIARIES CLASSIFIED AS FOOD POOR BASED ON THE SUBSISTENCE THRESHOLD ISSUED BY THE PSA AT THE TIME OF THE SELECTION SHALL BE PRIORITIZED IN THE SELECTION PROCESS OF BENEFICIARIES.

All qualified household-beneficiaries shall comply with all of the following conditions as a requirement for continued program eligibility:"

"a) Pregnant women must avail of pre-natal services, give birth in a

health facility attended by a skilled health professional, and receive post-partum care and post-natal care for her newborn;"

b) Children zero (0) to (5) must receive regular preventive health and nutrition services including check-up and vaccinations;"

c) CHILDREN WHO ARE UNDERNOURISHED MUST UNDERGO MONTHLY MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF NUTRITION INDICATORS AS FACILITATED BY RESPECTIVE BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS OR LOCAL HEALTH UNITS;"

"d) THE FOOD AND NUTRITION GRANT IS A FIXED AMOUNT AND DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD;"

"e) Children one (1) to fourteen (14) years old must avail of deworming pills at least twice a year;"

"f) Children three (3) to four (4) years old must attend day care or pre- school classes at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the time;"

"g) Children five (5) to eighteen (18) years old must attend elementary or secondary classes at least eighty-five percent (85%) of their time; and"

"h) At least one (1) responsible person must attend family development sessions conducted by the DSWD, at least once a month."

"Any or all conditions for entitlement may be suspended by the DSWD Secretary during times of calamities, war, and armed conflicts."

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD shall, in coordination with appropriate government departments and agencies, revise the rules and regulations for Republic Act No. 11310 to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts hereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules

and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed, amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,