



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8369

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER A. LAGBAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), institutionalized through Republic Act No. 11310, remains the national government's flagship social protection program for breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty by investing in the health, nutrition, and education of poor households. Based on the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Program Implementation Report for the Second Quarter of 2025, the Program currently supports 3,095,544 active beneficiary households identified through the Listahanan targeting system. Of these, 2,665,571, or 86.11 percent, are female grantees, while 429,973, or 13.89 percent, are male grantees. This gender distribution reflects the Program's longstanding emphasis on women's empowerment and maternal responsibility, reinforcing the pivotal role of mothers and female caregivers as agents of change within their households and communities.

In recent years, persistent high food price inflation and the sluggish recovery of low-income families in a post-Covid-19 economy have renewed congressional discussions on the adequacy of the current cash grants. The Commission on Audit (2022) reported that 90 percent of the 4.3 million active beneficiaries remained poor even after receiving grants for seven to thirteen years. While the optimal duration of participation in time-limited cash transfer programs remains an open question—given the absence of conclusive global or local studies—evidence suggests that longer program exposure and higher transfer levels lead to stronger gains. Extended durations and more substantial transfer amounts are associated with increased utilization of education and health services and improved human development outcomes.

Inflationary pressures further underscore the need to reassess the sufficiency of current grant amounts. Since the enactment of RA 11310 in 2019, inflation has steadily risen. For all income households, inflation averaged 4.1 percent from 2019 to 2023, increasing from 2.4 percent in 2019–2020 to 6.0 percent in 2023. For the bottom 30 percent of income households—those most representative of 4Ps beneficiaries—inflation averaged an even higher 4.4 percent over the same period, climbing from 1.9 percent in 2019 to 6.7 percent in 2023. These sustained higher

inflation rates for the poorest households stem from disproportionately high food inflation, consistent with Engel's Law that the lower the household income, the larger the share spent on food.

As a result, the real value of the cash grants has eroded. The maximum annual assistance of ₱31,200 for a compliant household with one child each in elementary, junior high school, and senior high school now holds a purchasing power of only ₱24,454 by 2023 when adjusted for inflation for the bottom 30 percent income households. This represents a loss of ₱6,745.90 in real value, or approximately 21.6 percent of the original amount.

These data highlight a persistent and widening gap between the statutory cash grant levels and the evolving economic realities faced by the country's poorest households. To ensure that the Program continues to deliver meaningful support and remains aligned with its core objectives, there is a clear need for an institutional mechanism that will periodically assess and recommend adjustments to the cash grant rates and subsidies.

This measure seeks to address that gap by mandating a periodic review of grant rates every three (3) years. Such a mechanism will enable the government to account for inflation, economic shocks, cost-of-living changes, and program performance, thereby preserving the real value of 4Ps benefits and supporting sustained improvements in health, nutrition, and education outcomes.

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



HON. JENNIFER A. LAGBAS
Representative
First District, Misamis Oriental



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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 7 AND 15 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11310, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) ACT"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act" is hereby 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 (P300.00)] **FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00)** 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 (P500.00)] **SEVEN HUNDRED PESOS (P700.00)** 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 (P700.00)] **NINE HUNDRED PESOS (P900.00)** per month per child for a maximum of ten (10) months per year; and

(d) Health and nutrition grant shall not be lower than [Seven hundred fifty pesos (P750.00)] **ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00)** per month for a maximum of twelve (12) months per year.

The health/nutrition grant component aims to promote healthy practices and family development, improve the health nutritional status of pregnant and post-partum mothers, infants and young children, and increase the use of health services by the household-beneficiary. The health grant is a fixed amount and does not depend on the number of members in the household.”

SECTION 2. Section 15 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section. 15. *Advisory Council.* -An Advisory Council shall be created at the regional and national levels to be headed by the DSWD.

The regional advisory councils and NAC shall have, as members, representatives from the DSWD, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The regional advisory councils and NAC shall also have, as additional members, two (2) representatives from accredited nongovernmental organizations working or monitoring social welfare service programs.

The Advisory Councils shall have the following functions:

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(F) AT THE START OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT, AND EVERY THREE (3) YEARS THEREAFTER, THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAC), THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, SHALL REVIEW THE IMPACT OF THE GRANT RATES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT ALLOCATIONS. THE REVIEW SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE VIEW TO RECOMMENDING ADJUSTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THESE REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO POVERTY THRESHOLDS, INFLATION, AND PREVAILING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.”

SECTION 3. *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,