

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11116



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOLO PARENTS
PROGRAM (FASPP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Solo parents carry the responsibility of raising and providing for their children without the full and regular support of another parent, making access to reliable social protection particularly important for families with limited resources. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) estimates that there are approximately 14 million solo parents in the Philippines, and the agency recognizes solo parents as a sector requiring social protection and government assistance under the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act, or Republic Act No. 11861.¹ The scale of this sector underscores the need for government programs that not only recognize solo parents' rights in law but also provide practical assistance when families face immediate financial difficulty.

The need for responsive assistance is particularly evident among low-income households facing rising costs of basic necessities. In June 2026, food inflation among the bottom 30% of income households reached 8.2 percent, while the cost of housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels increased by 8.7 percent and transport costs increased by 15.6 percent year-on-year.² These

¹ Department of Social Welfare and Development, Provision of Assistance to Solo Parents, citing National Statistics Office data on approximately 14 million solo parents and discussing the implementation of Republic Act No. 11861, the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act.

² Philippine Statistics Authority, Summary Inflation Report Consumer Price Index for the Bottom 30% Income Households (2018=100): June 2026.

pressures are especially significant for solo parents, who must stretch a single household income across food, utilities, transportation, health care, education, and other expenses for themselves and their dependents. The DSWD's experience with its Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program likewise demonstrates the continuing demand for government safety-net assistance: more than 8.2 million Filipinos in crisis received assistance from AICS from January to November 2025, exceeding the program's target for the year.³

While existing government programs provide important support, there is a need to institutionalize a dedicated and predictable mechanism through which qualified solo parents can receive assistance for essential needs. The proposed Financial Assistance for Solo Parents Program (FASPP) Act responds to this need by establishing a statutory framework for assistance that may cover food, medical expenses, education, livelihood, and cash relief, while allowing complementary assistance through LGUs in the form of rice assistance. The Bill also provides safeguards through eligibility requirements, social-worker assessment, documentary requirements, and penalties for fraudulent or improper claims, while ensuring that assistance may complement support from LGUs, other government agencies, and non-government organizations. By institutionalizing the FASPP and providing for its continuing appropriation, the measure seeks to make government assistance more accessible, coordinated, and responsive to the actual needs of solo parents and their dependents.

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


REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS
Fifth District of Quezon City

³ Department of Social Welfare and Development, DSWD serves over 8.2M in-crisis Pinoys in 2025, expects to help more clients this year, January 5, 2026.

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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 “*Solo Parents Economic Support Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize and protect solo parents and their dependents as a vulnerable sector and to promote their welfare by ensuring access to timely, adequate, and responsive social protection, financial assistance, and essential goods and services necessary for food security, health, education, livelihood, and other basic needs.

It is further declared the policy of the State to institutionalize a coordinated and accessible system of financial assistance for qualified solo parents through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in partnership with local government units (LGUs) and other relevant agencies and service providers, particularly for solo parents whose limited incomes make them vulnerable to poverty, economic shocks, inflation, illness, and other circumstances that threaten the well-being and continued support of their dependents.

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

1. *FASPP* - refers to the Financial Assistance for Solo Parents Program implemented by the DSWD providing various forms of assistance to qualified solo parents.
2. *Solo Parent* - refers to an individual who qualifies as a solo parent under Republic Act No. 11861 and its implementing rules and regulations.
3. *Beneficiary* - refers to a solo parent whose monthly income does not exceed Fourteen Thousand Pesos (PhP 14,000.00), and is qualified to receive assistance under this Act, subject to assessment and submission of documentary requirements.
4. *Dependent* - refers to a child or a dependent qualified under the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act.
5. *Certificate of Eligibility (CE)* - refers to a document issued by the DSWD certifying that the solo parent is eligible to avail of assistance under the FASPP.
6. *General Intake Sheet (GIS)* - refers to the form used by DSWD social workers to record relevant information on the solo parent and dependents.
7. *Social Case Study Report (SCSR)* - refers to the document prepared by a professional social worker describing the socio-economic condition, assessment, and recommended interventions for the solo parent.
8. *Service Providers* - refers to entities providing goods and services covered by the FASPP, including but not limited to hospitals, clinics, educational institutions, pharmacies, and other relevant providers.
9. *Guarantee Letter (GL)* - refers to a document issued by the DSWD guaranteeing payment to service providers on behalf of the solo parent.

SECTION 4. Coverage and Modalities in Providing Assistance. Financial and other assistance shall be provided through the DSWD and in partnership with local government units (LGUs), subject to eligibility and availability of funds, as follows:

1. *Implementation through the DSWD* - Qualified solo parents who need financial assistance for goods and services may avail of:
 - a. *Food Assistance* - this is an outright cash assistance provided to meet the need for food and other nutritional requirements for sustenance of the solo parent's children;

- b. *Medical Assistance* - this is an outright cash or Guarantee Letter provided to cover hospitalization expenses and professional fees, cost of medicines and other medical treatment or procedures, such as common laboratory tests, and diagnostic imaging for any illness or condition, including postpartum complications. This assistance does not extend to other healthcare expenses that are unrelated to medical treatment or aftercare;
- c. *Educational Assistance for dependents* - refers to an outright cash assistance or Guarantee Letter provided to cover school-related expenses of the solo parent and dependent(s), such as tuition and miscellaneous fees, purchase of school supplies, uniforms, books, payment of transportation expenses, and other incidental costs necessary for the dependent's continued attendance and completion of primary, secondary, or tertiary education, including technical-vocational education or skills training programs, subject to assessment by the DSWD social worker.
- d. *Livelihood Assistance* - refers to an outright cash assistance or support package granted to a qualified solo parent for the purpose of initiating, sustaining, or expanding a small-scale livelihood or income-generating activity. This assistance may cover the procurement of necessary tools, raw materials, training costs, or other inputs directly related to the livelihood undertaking, as determined by the assessment and recommendation of the DSWD social worker.
- e. *Cash Relief Assistance* - this is an outright cash assistance provided to qualified beneficiaries for reasons other than for food, medical or funeral expenses, which, upon the assessment of the DSWD social worker, may appear to be directly related to the effects of high inflation (i.e., difficulty in paying for house rental, electricity and water expenses, etc.).

Cash assistance may be granted outright in amounts from Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00) up to Fifteen Thousand Pesos (PhP 15,000.00), subject to the DSWD's assessment. For amounts exceeding Fifteen Thousand Pesos (PhP 15,000.00), the same shall be provided through a Guarantee Letter approved by the Secretary of DSWD or his duly authorized representative.

The distribution of assistance is without prejudice to the adoption of digital payment solutions once the necessary infrastructure is in place.

2. *Implementation through Local Government Units (LGUs)* - The financial assistance that will be provided to qualified beneficiaries through the LGUs shall be called rice assistance. For this purpose, the DSWD shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the local government units to provide the details of the transfer of funds and the requirements for its liquidation, in accordance with the existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

The amount of rice assistance that can be provided to qualified beneficiaries shall be equivalent to half of the cost of twenty-five (25) kilograms of rice based on the suggested retail price from the Department of Agriculture (DA). The amount of each transfer to the LGU shall not exceed Thirty Million Pesos (PhP 30,000,000.00).

The financial assistance under this Act may complement any support provided by the LGU, government agencies, and non-government organizations. A beneficiary who has received rice assistance through the LGU may still qualify to receive other financial assistance from the DSWD subject to the requirements under this Act, and professional assessment of the DSWD social worker.

SECTION 5. *Documentary Requirements.* For purposes of assessment and evaluation, the solo parent shall submit the following:

1. Solo Parent Identification Card (SPIC). *Provided*, that, in the absence of an SPIC, the DSWD and/or the LGU shall assist the Solo Parent in securing the same; and
2. Proof of residency such as barangay certificate, utility bill, or Voter's ID.

SECTION 6. *Penalties.* The penalty of imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than one (1) year, or a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or both imprisonment and fine, at the discretion of the court shall be imposed upon any person, whether or not acting in conspiracy with public officials, who, by act or omission, shall:

1. Submit falsified documents in order to avail of the benefits under this program;
2. Cause or aid in the grant of financial support to persons who are not qualified beneficiaries of this program; or
3. Cause or aid in the grant of financial support in excess of or below what is provided under this program.

A public official who commits or aids in the commission of any of the acts provided herein shall be penalized with temporary disqualification to hold public office. Administrative sanctions shall be imposed without prejudice to penalties as may be applicable under existing laws.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD, in consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders, shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,