



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 5, 1998

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 17 s. 1998

SUBJECT: Guidelines for the 1997 Subsidy to 4th, 5th and 6th Class Local Government Units for the Provision of Subsistence Allowance for Barangay Health Workers (BHW)

I. Background/Rationale

Republic Act No. 7883 otherwise known as the "Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995", formally recognizes the valuable contribution of barangay health workers (BHW) for community health development. BHWs play a critical role in facilitating community and individual access to health information and services towards people empowerment on health. RA 7883 stipulates that an accredited BHW shall be provided a subsistence allowance in the course of his/her voluntary work in the community.

The local government code of 1991 mandates the local government units (LGUs) particularly at the municipal and city level to assume the health service implementation role in the communities while the national government is tasked with ensuring technical standards and equity in health. Thus, the activities of barangay health workers in the communities are technically and administratively supported by the LGUs.

The subsidy to LGUs for the subsistence allowance of BHWs is a support of the national government to LGU programs to facilitate efficient and effective government and people's collaboration for a responsive and sustainable health care system. This national subsidy was made available only for the year 1997 through RA 8250 or the GAA of 1997, amounting to P 55,127,400.00.

The following guidelines and procedures specify the mechanism of accessing and disbursing the said fund.

II. Objectives:

1. To strengthen the capabilities of LGUs in harnessing the participation of barangay health workers in community health activities.

2. To provide financial support to barangay health workers while rendering community volunteer health work in 1997.

3. To augment the government's efforts to provide the benefits intended for BHWs as specified in RA 7883.

III. Coverage

The subsidy fund for subsistence allowance shall cover all accredited BHWs in 4th, 5th and 6th class LGUs. This subsidy is in accordance with the stipulation of RA 7883 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and RA 8250.

This subsistence allowance shall be provided to accredited Barangay Health workers on a per project/program/activity basis in the course of their social preparation, actual conduct, monitoring and evaluation of specific activities mentioned in item IV.A.2

IV. Mechanics of Implementation

A. Requirements for Benefit Availment by BHWs

1. Registration and Accreditation

The Municipal / City Health Board, or through its duly constituted BHW Registration and Accreditation Committee (BHW-RAG) should have registered and accredited the deserving BHWS in their respective localities as prescribed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 7883. Only a duly accredited BHW could avail of subsistence allowance.

2. Community Based Health Activities

a. The provision of BHW subsistence allowance by LGUs shall be done in line with the health promotion prevention and health service delivery function of the BHW.

b. The specific eligible health activities conducted in 1997 of the BHWs are as follows:



Local health initiatives of LGUs such as environmental sanitation, deworming, water system development or any other community health activities responding to the needs of localities are also eligible activities for program support in this subsidy fund provided that it does not exceed the maximum 20-day limit.

3. Issuance of Certificate of Participation/Involvement in Health Activities

The Rural Health Midwife (RHM) or the NGO supervisor shall certify that the BHW concerned has participated in all or any activities cited in IV.A.2. The Certificate of participation to be issued by the RHM/NGO supervisor shall be authenticated and noted by the Municipal Health Officer/Head of Rural Health Unit.

B. Benefits and Amount Coverage

1. A P30 per day rate of subsistence allowance shall be provided to qualified BHWs in consonance with the provision of RA 7883 guidelines.

2. A maximum number of 20-day involvement of BHWs in community-based health activities or a total of six hundred pesos (P600.00) for the whole year of 1997 for each BHW shall be allowed for payment.

3. The amount of subsidy for subsistence allowance to be received by LGUs will be determined by the following formula

No. of Accredited BHWs x P30 x 20 days

C. Funds Flow

1. The DOH-Central Office allocated the budget based on the 1997 submitted number of accredited BHWs in 4th, 5th and 6th class LGUs.

2. The allocated fund shall be released by the DOH-Central Office to the Regional Field Office, which in turn shall facilitate the release of fund to the LGU.

3. The 4th, 5th and 6th class LGUs shall submit the request for release of funds to the DOH-Regional Offices. The requests shall be accompanied by the following documents:

a. List of names addresses and accreditation number of accredited BHW that has been certified by the Local Health Board,

b. Certification of Involvement of BHWs in any of the community-based health activities by the RHM/NGO Supervisor noted by the Municipal Health Office, and

c. Provincial Health Office endorsement of the request, indicating that the number of BHWs does not exceed one percent (1%) of the total provincial population.

4. The Regional Field Office shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Local Chief Executive concerned to facilitate the transfer of fund and to define each party's responsibilities in the disbursement and utilization of the said fund.

5. The subsidy fund released to the LGU shall be taken by LGU as a trust receipt. The disbursement will be based on the provisions of this guideline.

D. Reporting of Utilization of Funds

1. The recipient LGU shall submit a report of utilization of the release fund for the subsistence allowance to the Regional DOH not later than end of January 1999.

2. DOH-RFOs shall monitor the utilization of the funds through the DOH—Representatives to the LHB, BHW Coordinators and other DOH-designated personnel. A copy of the regional fund utilization report shall be forwarded to the Finance Service copy furnished the Community Health Service.

This Order takes effect upon approval.

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