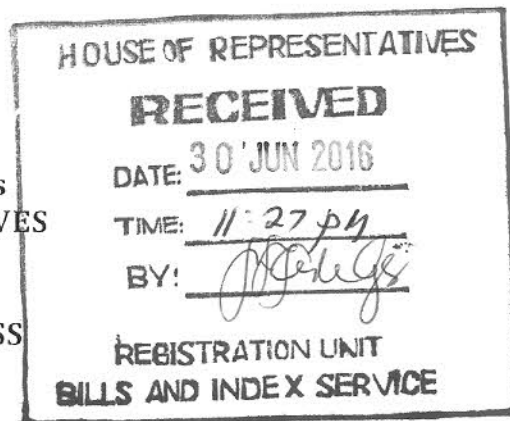


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 699



Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps)
TO REDUCE POVERTY AND PROMOTE HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mass poverty is perennial problem of emerging economies like the Philippines.

Abject poverty and extreme want sap the human being of dignity and limit the capacity to live a full life, thus, the need to constantly come up with institutional and operational innovations to alleviate poverty.

Governments continue to formulate and design sustainable and comprehensive programs to keep poverty at a minimum level, if not to eradicate it altogether. These programs consider the need to deliver adequate basic services, such as food security, income security, education, functional literacy, and health care services.

Short term and long term strategies and programs were designed in the past administration to impact on lives of the extremely poor such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

The 4Ps is a flagship anti poverty program of the government that grants conditional cash subsidy to the poorest households in the country to improve their health, nutrition and education. The program is basically intended to immediately impact on the poverty situation of the poorest families by granting them conditional cash benefits and in the long term, break the vicious of poverty by investing in human capital such as sending the children to school and bringing them to health care centers on a regular basis.

The 4Ps is patterned after the Latin American Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programs, the largest of which is Bolsa Familia Program (Bolsa Familia).

The 4Ps, our own version of the Bolsa Familia, contributes to alleviating the poverty situation of target beneficiaries, especially the extremely poor Filipinos. By investing in human capital, this program has the potential to break the backbone of poverty in the country and create opportunities to live a full, productive and meaningful life.

Said bill was approved on the Third Reading at the House of Representatives on Feb 01, 2016. It was sent to Senate on February 04, 2016.

The early passage of this bill is strongly recommended.



GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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House Bill No. _____

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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 "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the need to strengthen the solidarity of the family and actively promote its total development.

The State further recognizes its obligation to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

The State furthermore recognizes the need to protect the poor; thus, the State hereby declares it a policy to:

- a) Provide assistance to the poor to alleviate their immediate needs;
- b) Break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through investment in human capital and improved delivery of basic services to the poor, particularly education, health and nutrition;
- c) Promote gender equality and empowerment of women;
- d) Reduce child mortality; and
- e) Improve maternal health.

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

- a) *Case management* refers to a process used by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to enable the household-beneficiaries to improve their functioning by dealing with their difficulties specifically in complying with the conditionalities of the Program;

- b) *Compliance verification* refers to the checking and monitoring done to ensure that the qualified household-beneficiaries comply with conditions for entitlement set forth by the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps);
- c) *Conditional cash grant* refers to the amount being received by the qualified household-beneficiaries who comply with the conditions for entitlement;
- d) *Extremely poor* refers to households, duly identified by the standardized targeting system, whose income falls short of enabling them to provide even just their nutritional requirements;
- e) *Grantee* refers to the most responsible adult member of the household-beneficiary authorized to receive the conditional cash transfer;
- f) *Grievance Redress System* refers to the mechanism of the DSWD which addresses and resolves issues and concerns related to the implementation of the Program;
- g) *Health facility* refers to a barangay health station, rural health unit or primary hospital
- h) *Health service providers* refer to barangay health workers, barangay nutrition scholars and midwives;
- i) *Poor* refers to households whose income falls below the poverty threshold as defined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities of life;
- j) *Preventive health check-up* refers to health services comprising of complete immunization, deworming, weight monitoring and management of childhood diseases;
- k) *Program* refers to the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) which is the national poverty reduction strategy that provides conditional cash transfer to poor households to improve their health, nutrition and education;
- l) *Qualified household-beneficiaries* refers to households identified by the DSWD for entitlement of the monthly conditional cash grant;
- m) *Responsible person* refers to the parent or guardian in the qualified household-beneficiary; and
- n) *Standardized Targeting System* refers to a system for identifying who and where the poor households are through the generation of socioeconomic database of poor households that is adopted by the national government agencies and implemented by the DSWD.

SEC. 4. *Selection of Qualified Household-Beneficiaries.* – On a nationwide basis, the DSWD shall select qualified household-beneficiaries using a standardized targeting system. The DSWD shall conduct a revalidation of targeting of beneficiaries every three (3) years.

SEC. 5. *Local Verification Committee.* – A Local Verification Committee shall be created in every municipality or city composed of two (2) local government unit representatives, an accredited health-service provider from the barangay, a representative

of an accredited civil society organization, and the school head as designated by the Department of Education (DepEd).

The Committee shall be tasked to ensure that the initial list of beneficiaries satisfies the eligibility requirements set forth under this Act.

SEC. 6. Conditional Cash Transfer. – Subject to certain conditions, each qualified household-beneficiary shall receive a conditional cash transfer equivalent to five hundred pesos (P500.00) per month for health and nutrition expenses or the equivalent of six thousand pesos (P6,000.00) per qualified household-beneficiary per year.

A maximum of three (3) children per qualified household-beneficiary shall be given conditional cash grants for educational expenses:

- a) Three hundred pesos (P300.00) per month per child enrolled in elementary or the equivalent of three thousand pesos (P3,000.00) per a ten (10)-month school year;
- b) Five hundred pesos (P500.00) per month per child enrolled in junior high school or the equivalent of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per a ten (10)-month school year; and
- c) Seven hundred pesos (P700.00) per month per child enrolled in senior high school or the equivalent of seven thousand pesos (P7,000.00) per a ten (10)-month school year.

A supplementary education grant of three hundred pesos (P300.00) per month shall be given to the child in elementary or high school who has maintained passing grades in all subjects after the second year of availment of the Program.

SEC. 7. Conditions for Entitlement. – All qualified household-beneficiaries shall comply with the following conditions as a requirement for continued program eligibility:

- a) Children zero (0) to five (5) years old must receive regular preventive health check-ups and vaccinations;
- b) Children six (6) to thirteen (13) years old must avail of deworming pills at least twice a year;
- c) Children three (3) to five (5) years old must attend day care or preschool classes at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the time;
- d) Children must attend elementary or high school classes at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the time;
- e) Pregnant women must avail of pre and post-natal care and give birth with the assistance of a skilled or trained health care professional in a health facility;
- f) At least one (1) responsible person must attend family development sessions and natural family planning sessions conducted by the DSWD, at least once a month;
- g) At least one (1) responsible person must join and complete at least two (2) government-recognized or accredited nongovernment organization (NGO)-sponsored entrepreneurship or livelihood training programs;

- h) At least one (1) responsible person must maintain cleanliness in the surroundings and practice proper garbage disposal;
- i) At least one (1) responsible person must plant trees in the surroundings; and
- j) At least one (1) responsible person must assist, help or participate in bayanihan projects in their respective barangay or municipality.

SEC. 8. *Noncompliance with Conditions.* – The responsible person of a reported qualified household-beneficiary who fails to comply with the conditions set forth in Section 7 of this Act shall at first be notified in writing.

After four (4) months of noncompliance, the household-beneficiary shall be subject to case management. If, despite the case management, the qualified household-beneficiary continues with noncompliance, the benefits under this Act may be suspended.

Should the qualified household-beneficiary so notified persist in not complying with the conditions with a period of one (1) year, the conditional cash grant shall be cancelled.

SEC. 9. *Mode of Cash Transfer.* – The conditional cash transfer shall be made by the DSWD. The conditional cash grant shall be received by the grantee or any of the grantee's duly authorized representative on a bimonthly basis through an authorized government depository bank duly identified by the DSWD, using different appropriate payment modes, including cash card, over-the-counter transaction, money remittance services, conduit rural banks, and cooperatives.

SEC. 10. *Periodic Assessment.* – The amounts indicated in Section 6 of this Act shall be made available to the qualified household-beneficiaries during the first two (2) years of the implementation of this Act and reasonable adjustments may thereafter be made by the President, if necessary, upon recommendation by the DSWD, after taking into account the rates of inflation and similar economic indicators.

The grant rates may be adjusted by the DSWD if warranted by the changes in the socioeconomic conditions existing at the time. The DSWD shall ensure that the grant rates are sufficient to make a positive impact on the health, nutrition and education of grantees: *Provided*, That the DSWD shall ensure that the grant will not serve as disincentive for family members to work and improve their economic conditions.

SEC. 11. *Loan Assistance.* – Responsible persons who successfully completed the entrepreneurship or livelihood programs required under Section 7 of this Act may be given loan assistance as their initial capital by the appropriate government agency that will implement relevant programs pursuant to Section 16 of this Act.

SEC.12. *Five (5)-Year Maximum Limit.* – Each qualified household-beneficiary shall receive the conditional cash grant for a maximum period of five (5) years.

SEC. 13. *Lead Agency.* – The DSWD shall serve as the central planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring body of the Program.

In the implementation of this Act, the DSWD shall have the following functions:

- a) Select and use an appropriate, effective and cost-efficient method devised for the purpose of identifying and selecting qualified household-beneficiaries;
- b) Identify and select the target household-beneficiaries on the basis of a uniform, objective and transparent selection process;

SEC. 16. *Convergence of Programs and Services.* – TO ensure that the targeted household-beneficiaries remain nonpoor after the prescribed maximum limit for receipt of the conditional cash grant, multi-stakeholder and interagency convergence of programs and services shall be implemented. This shall focus on the enhancement of operational efficiency and strengthening of interagency partnerships for greater impact and sustainability of outcomes.

SEC. 17. *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 Acts.

The appropriation shall continue until the Program has covered sixty percent 60% of the total number of extremely poor families in the Philippines, as may be determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority at the time of the enactment of this Act. The appropriation shall be included in the annual appropriation of the DSWD.

SEC. 18. *Penalty.* – Any person, public or private, whether or not acting in conspiracy with public officials, who, by act or mission, inserts or allows the insertion of data or false information, or who diverts from what ought to be contained in the registry, with the view of altering the fact, or aiding in the grant of the money to persons other than the qualified household-beneficiaries, shall be penalized with the imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months, or a fine or not less than ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00), or both imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

Administrative sanctions shall be imposed without prejudice to prosecution in the proper courts.

SEC. 19. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, a congressional oversight committee, hereafter to be referred to as the 4Ps Committee, is hereby constituted. The 4Ps Committee shall be composed of fourteen (14) members with the chairpersons of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate and six (6) additional members from each House, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President, respectively. This Committee is principally tasked to set the overall framework to monitor and ensure the proper implementation of this Act. It shall likewise determine inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend necessary remedial legislation or executive measures.

SEC. 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Social Welfare and Development shall, in coordination with appropriate government departments and agencies, with the participation of the local government units, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 21. *Separability Clause.* – If any provisions, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 22. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 23. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,