

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 366



Introduced by Representative **FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ**

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The unrelenting effort of poverty alleviation initiative by the government should be carried on. Currently, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is being carried out nationwide covering more than four (4) million households in 2015. It is aimed at eradicating extreme poverty by investing in health and education of the Filipino family. Basically, the 4Ps has dual objective, first is to provide social assistance by giving monetary support to extremely poor families to respond to their immediate needs and second to offer social development by breaking the generational poverty cycle by investing in education and health of the chosen family beneficiaries.

It cannot be denied that the benefits of the initial implementation of the program has kicked-off. According to a study by the World Bank¹, the results of a benefit incidence analysis for the Philippine CCT program using recent national household survey data showed improvement in overall welfare of the beneficiaries on the short term and a positive impact on the poverty gap of the beneficiaries.

In order to sustain the projected benefits of the program, it is proposed to establish a mechanism for its full implementation and provide for system that will ensure pro-active monitoring.

Passage of this bill is therefore earnestly sought.


FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

¹ <http://documents.worldbank.org/> "Sa Pantawid, Malapit nang Makatawid!" (With Pantawid, we are closer to getting out of poverty!) An Update of the Philippine Conditional Cash Transfer's Implementation Performance Pablo Ariel Acosta and Rashiel Velarde

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CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Pantawid
2 Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the need to
5 strengthen the solidarity of the family and actively promote its total
6 development. The State further recognizes its obligation to promote a just
7 and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and
8 independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through
9 policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a
10 rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. The State
11 furthermore recognizes the need to protect the poor; thus, the State
12 hereby declares it a policy to:

13
14 (a) Provide assistance to the poor to alleviate their immediate
15 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) Achieve universal primary education;
- (e) Reduce child mortality; and
- (f) 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 qualified household-beneficiary authorized to receive the conditional cash transfer;

1 **(f) Grievance Redress System** refers to the mechanism of
2 the DSWD which addresses and resolves issues and concerns
3 related to the implementation of the Program;

4 **(g) Health facility** refers to a barangay health station, rural
5 health unit or primary hospital;

6 **(h) Health service providers** refer to barangay health
7 workers, barangay nutrition scholars and midwives;

8 **(i) Poor** refers to households whose income falls below the
9 poverty threshold as defined by the National Economic and
10 Development Authority (NEDA) and cannot afford in a
11 sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of
12 food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities
13 of life;

14 **(j) Preventive health check-up** refers to health services
15 comprising of complete immunization, deworming, weight
16 monitoring and management of childhood diseases;

17 **(k) Program** refers to the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino
18 Program (4Ps) which is the national poverty reduction
19 strategy that provides conditional cash transfer to poor
20 households to improve their health, nutrition and education;

21 **(l) Qualified household-beneficiaries** refer to households
22 identified by the DSWD for entitlement of the monthly
23 conditional cash grant;

24 **(m) Responsible person** refers to the parent or guardian in
25 the qualified household-beneficiary; and

26 **(n) Standardized Targeting System** refers to a system for
27 identifying who and where the poor households are through
28 the generation of socioeconomic database of poor households
29 that is adopted by national government agencies and
30 implemented by the DSWD.

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

5
6 **SEC. 5. Local Verification Committee.** – A Local Verification Committee
7 shall be created in every municipality or city composed of two (2) local
8 government unit representatives, an accredited health-service provider
9 from the barangay, a representative of an accredited civil society
10 organization, and the school head as designated by the Department of
11 Education (DepED).

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

14
15 **SEC. 6. Conditional Cash Transfer.** – Subject to certain conditions,
16 each qualified household-beneficiary shall receive a conditional cash
17 transfer equivalent to five hundred pesos (P500.00) per month for health
18 and nutrition expenses or the equivalent of six thousand pesos
19 (P6,000.00) per qualified household-beneficiary per year.

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

22
23 (a) Three hundred pesos (P300.00) per month per child
24 enrolled in elementary or the equivalent of three thousand
25 pesos (P3,000.00) per a ten (10)-month school year;

26 (b) Five hundred pesos (P500.00) per month per child
27 enrolled in junior high school or the equivalent of five
28 thousand pesos (P5,000.00) per a ten (10)-month school
29 year; and

30 (c) Seven hundred pesos (P700.00) per month per child
31 enrolled in senior high school or the equivalent of seven

1 thousand pesos (P7,000.00) per a ten (10)-month school
2 year.

3
4 A supplementary education grant of three hundred pesos (P300.00)
5 per month shall be given to the child in elementary or high school who
6 has maintained passing grades in all subjects after the second year of
7 availment of the Program.

8
9 **SEC. 7. Conditions for Entitlement.** – All qualified household-
10 beneficiaries shall comply with the following conditions as a requirement
11 for continued program eligibility:

12 (a) Children zero (0) to five (5) years old must receive regular
13 preventive health check-ups and vaccinations;

14 (b) Children six (6) to thirteen (13) years old must avail of
15 deworming pills at least twice a year;

16 (c) Children three (3) to five (5) years old must attend day
17 care or preschool classes at least eighty-five percent
18 (85%) of the time;

19 (d) Children must attend elementary or high school classes at
20 least eighty-five percent (85%) of the time;

21 (e) Pregnant women must avail of pre- and post-natal care
22 and give birth with the assistance of a skilled or trained
23 health care professional in a health facility;

24 (f) At least one (1) responsible person must attend family
25 development sessions and natural family planning sessions
26 conducted by the DSWD, at least once a month;

27 (g) At least one (1) responsible person must join and
28 complete at least two (2) government-recognized or
29 accredited nongovernment organization (NGO)-sponsored
30 entrepreneurship or livelihood training programs;

- 1 (h) At least one (1) responsible person must maintain
2 cleanliness in the surroundings and practice proper
3 garbage disposal;
4 (i) At least one (1) responsible person must plant trees in the
5 surroundings; and
6 (j) At least one (1) responsible person must assist, help or
7 participate in bayanihan projects in their respective
8 barangay or municipality.
9

10 **SEC. 8. Noncompliance with Conditions.** – The responsible person of
11 a reported qualified household-beneficiary who fails to comply with the
12 conditions set forth in Section 7 of this Act shall at first be notified in
13 writing. After four (4) months of noncompliance, the household-
14 beneficiary shall be subject to case management. If, despite the case
15 management, the qualified household-beneficiary continues with
16 noncompliance, the benefits under this Act may be suspended. Should
17 the qualified household-beneficiary so notified persist in not complying
18 with the conditions within a period of one (1) year, the conditional cash
19 grant shall be cancelled.
20

21 **SEC. 9. Mode of Cash Transfer.** – The conditional cash transfer shall be
22 made by the DSWD. The conditional cash grant shall be received by the
23 grantee or any of the grantee's duly authorized representative on a
24 bimonthly basis through an authorized government depository bank duly
25 identified by the DSWD, using different appropriate payment modes,
26 including cash card, over-the-counter transaction, money remittance
27 services, conduit rural banks, and cooperatives.
28

29 **SEC. 10. Periodic Assessment.** – The amounts indicated in Section 6 of
30 this Act shall be made available to the qualified household-beneficiaries
31 during the first two (2) years of the implementation of this Act and
32 reasonable adjustments may thereafter be made by the President, if

1 necessary, upon recommendation by the DSWD, after taking into account
2 the rates of inflation and similar economic indicators.

3
4 The grant rates may be adjusted by the DSWD if warranted by the
5 changes in the socioeconomic conditions existing at the time. The DSWD
6 shall ensure that the grant rates are sufficient to make a positive impact
7 on the health, nutrition and education of grantees: *Provided, That the*
8 *DSWD shall ensure that the grant will not serve as disincentive for family*
9 *members to work and improve their economic conditions.*

10
11 **SEC. 11. *Loan Assistance.*** – Responsible persons who successfully
12 completed the entrepreneurship or livelihood programs required under
13 Section 7 of this Act may be given loan assistance as their initial capital
14 by the appropriate government agency that will implement relevant
15 programs pursuant to Section 16 of this Act.

16
17 **SEC. 12. *Five (5)-Year Maximum Limit.*** – Each qualified household-
18 beneficiary shall receive the conditional cash grant for a maximum period
19 of five (5) years.

20
21 **SEC. 13. *Lead Agency.*** – The DSWD shall serve as the central planning,
22 coordinating, implementing and monitoring body of the Program. In the
23 implementation of this Act, the DSWD shall have the following functions:

- 24 (a) Select and use an appropriate, effective and cost-efficient
25 method devised for the purpose of identifying and selecting
26 qualified household-beneficiaries;
27 (b) Identify and select the target household-beneficiaries on
28 the basis of a uniform, objective and transparent selection
29 process;
30 (c) Conduct seminar-workshops and training programs in
31 order to ensure qualified household-beneficiary awareness
32 of the conditions and other actions pertinent to this Act;

- 1 (d) Coordinate with different national and local agencies,
2 including organizations from the private sector to ensure
3 full implementation of statutory commitments herein;
- 4 (e) Set up monitoring and evaluation systems and
5 methodologies on compliance of conditions,
6 implementation of operations, and output and impact
7 assessments. It shall also coordinate with the advisory and
8 monitoring committees at the national, regional and
9 municipal levels to verify compliance once a month using
10 the monitoring and evaluation systems designed for the
11 purpose;
- 12 (f) Recommend to the President measures and policies for the
13 responsive delivery of the commitments under this Act;
- 14 (g) Coordinate with different national and local agencies to
15 maintain and update objective poverty maps which will be
16 checked and cross-checked periodically for duplications
17 and inaccurate or erroneous information;
- 18 (h) Formulate implementing rules and guidelines for the
19 enforcement of this Act;
- 20 (i) Submit an annual report to Congress including, but not
21 limited to, all aspects of its operations, financial status and
22 other relevant data; and
- 23 (j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or
24 incidental to the proper implementation of the provisions of
25 this Act.
- 26

27 **SEC. 14. Advisory Council.** – An Advisory Council shall be created at
28 the municipal, regional and national levels to be headed by the DSWD and
29 may be composed of representatives from the DepED, Technical
30 Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Health,
31 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Department of the Interior and
32 Local Government, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of

1 Labor and Employment, National Anti-Poverty Commission, the
2 Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), the local government
3 unit concerned, and accredited NGOs, as members.

4
5 The Advisory Council is principally tasked to monitor and assess
6 actions and activities relative to the implementation of the Program. It
7 shall also serve as a Grievance Committee tasked to accept complaints
8 and grievances that may arise within their respective territorial
9 jurisdictions, conduct investigation in specific cases and dispose cases
10 filed in connection thereto, using the Grievance Redress System.

11
12 **SEC. 15. *Independent Monitoring Committee.*** – An Independent
13 Monitoring Committee at the municipal, regional and national level
14 composed of representatives from the private sector and civil society
15 organizations shall be created. The Independent Monitoring Committee is
16 principally tasked to complement the monitoring activities of the DSWD
17 and provide feedback thereto for proper action. It shall submit a report on
18 the results of its monitoring activities relative to the implementation of
19 the Program to the Advisory Council.

20
21 **SEC. 16. *Convergence of Programs and Services.*** – To ensure that
22 the targeted household-beneficiaries remain nonpoor after the prescribed
23 maximum limit for receipt of the conditional cash grant, multi-stakeholder
24 and interagency convergence of programs and services shall be
25 implemented. This shall focus on the enhancement of operational
26 efficiency and strengthening of interagency partnerships for greater
27 impact and sustainability of outcomes.

28
29 **SEC. 17. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the
30 provisions of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the
31 current and subsequent General Appropriations Acts. The appropriation
32 shall continue until the Program has covered sixty percent (60%) of the

1 total number of extremely poor families in the Philippines, as may be
2 determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority at the time of the
3 enactment of this Act. The appropriation shall be included in the annual
4 appropriation of the DSWD.
5

6 **SEC. 18. *Penalty.*** – Any person, public or private, whether or not acting
7 in conspiracy with public officials, who, by act or omission, inserts or
8 allows the insertion of data or false information, or who diverts from what
9 ought to be contained in the registry, with the view of altering the fact, or
10 aiding in the grant of the money to persons other than the qualified
11 household-beneficiaries, shall be penalized with imprisonment of not less
12 than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months, or a fine of not
13 less than ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than twenty
14 thousand pesos (P20,000.00), or both imprisonment and fine, at the
15 discretion of the court. Administrative sanctions shall be imposed without
16 prejudice to prosecution in the proper courts.
17

18 **SEC. 19. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** – Upon the
19 effectivity of this Act, a congressional oversight committee, hereafter to
20 be referred to as the 4Ps Committee, is hereby constituted. The 4Ps
21 Committee shall be composed of fourteen (14) members with the
22 chairpersons of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation of the House of
23 Representatives, and the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural
24 Development of the Senate and six (6) additional members from each
25 House, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
26 and the Senate President, respectively. This Committee is principally
27 tasked to set the overall framework to monitor and ensure the proper
28 implementation of this Act. It shall likewise determine inherent
29 weaknesses in the law and recommend necessary remedial legislation or
30 executive measures.
31

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

7
8 **SEC. 21. Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act is
9 held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not
10 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

11
12 **SEC. 22. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
13 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or
14 regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is
15 hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

16
17 **SEC. 23. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
18 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
19 circulation.

20 *Approved,*