

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill 2545

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **REP. ENRICO A. PINEDA** and **REP. MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Designed as an ambitious human development and poverty reduction measure, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps has grown into a flagship state endeavor, with beneficiaries totaling 4.62 million families and an annual budget of P62.3 billion.

Presently, 1 in 5 Filipinos are enrolled in 4Ps, and for every 28 pesos that leaves the National Treasury, one peso goes to agency that runs the 4Ps and other social protection programs. Such is the budget footprint and the grassroots spread of the Philippine edition of the Conditional Cash Transfer program, a tool proven successful in uplifting the poor in many countries.

What drives the 4Ps program is the compelling idea that it is cost-effective in the long term, as the program uses incentives in promoting education, and child and maternal health thereby giving the National Government the benefit of decreasing its expenditures in paying for the social cost that illiteracy causes, like juvenile delinquency, drug addiction, or medical care of a sick child or mother, notwithstanding the high mortality rate of mothers and infants.

Hence, it is a pro-active approach that has been taken by our National Government against future social ills, by empowering the family to overcome the odds beforehand by offering incentives to comply with conditions so the child, for instance, attends school regularly or the mother reports for periodic health check-up.

It saves many families from a bleak future; it saves society from later reeling from lost economic opportunities due to undeveloped human capital; it saves government tons of money. And there are studies and concrete data which showed that indeed it has. By one appraisal, 4Ps reduced the total poverty, including the food poverty among beneficiaries by almost 7 percent, which translates to hundreds of thousands of families, mainly owing to its large clientele base.

This bill maximizes the potential of 20 million 4Ps beneficiaries as a force for social engagement for progress by expanding their conditions of entitlement – conditions which promote good and active citizenship, and community development.

From mere school attendance and medical check-ups, the conditionalities would now include community concerns that need to be attended to like drug addiction, hygiene and sanitation, climate change and disaster response, and livelihood.

Specifically , this measure includes as conditions that must be complied with the planting of trees, waste segregation, attendance in anti-drug seminars, joining a search-and- rescue team during disasters, among others

These should not be seen as exacting repayment from beneficiaries for the help they are getting from the government. They should rather be viewed as their equity in making their communities better places for their children .

Basically, these are simply good citizenship duties



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Introduced by **REP. ENRICO A. PINEDA** and **REP. MICHAEL ODYLON L. ROMERO**

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE CONDITIONS FOR ENTITLEMENT THAT A FAMILY
ENROLLED IN THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4 PS) OR IN
OTHER CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER (CCT) SCHEMES MUST COMPLY
WITH AS REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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

SECTION 1. It shall be mandatory for all qualified household-beneficiaries enrolled in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) or in other Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs that offer social protection to comply with the following conditions as a requirement for continued program eligibility:

- (a) Children from birth to five (5) years old must receive regular health check-ups and vaccinations;
- (b) Children six (6) to thirteen (13) years old must comply to 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 family planning sessions conducted by the Department of Health (DOH) or Department Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

- (g) At least one (1) responsible person must join and complete at least two (2) government-recognized or accredited non-government organization (NGO)-sponsored entrepreneurship or livelihood training programs;
- (h) At least one (1) responsible person must maintain cleanliness in the surroundings, practice proper garbage disposal and waste segregation, and join sanitation drives intended to prevent outbreaks of diseases;
- (i) At least one (1) responsible person must plant trees in the surroundings;
- (j) At least one (1) responsible person must participate in the annual Brigada Eskwela activity in the school where the children are enrolled or in one nearest their residence;
- (k) At least one (1) responsible person must join the disaster search and rescue volunteer team in their respective barangay or municipality ;
- (l) At least one (1) responsible person must attend anti-drug seminars and participate in community events designed to heighten awareness on the pernicious effects of substance abuse; and
- (m) At least one (1) responsible person must assist, help, or participate in bayanihan projects in their respective barangay or municipality;

SEC. 2. The responsible person of a reported qualified household-beneficiary who fails to comply with the conditions set forth in 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 and may only be re-activated once the household-beneficiary complied with the conditions set by this Act.

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

SEC. 3. The DSWD shall incorporate the above conditions of entitlement as beneficiary responsibilities in its 4Ps and other similar CCT programs and shall design and implement an orientation, educational and monitoring system that will educate the beneficiaries of their duties in a manner that will boost interest and compliance.

SEC. 4. Nothing in this Act prevents or disqualifies a beneficiary from receiving and enjoying additional allowances, emoluments, compensation, or non-monetary benefits from the government or private entities in exchange for performing any of the conditions enumerated in Section 1 of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,