

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 318

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Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

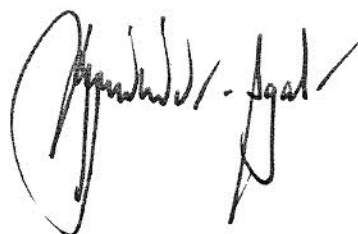
AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps)
TO REDUCE POVERTY AND PROMOTE HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Government efforts to reduce poverty incidence in the Philippines is undaunting. Based on the statistical data of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) thru the Listahan or the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), an administrative tool for targeting poor families, a total of 1,511,530 household beneficiaries of the program have improved their economic status in life which represents more or less 36% of the total number of beneficiaries of the 4Ps.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), aimed to improve the health, nutrition, and the education of children aged 0-18. As patterned from the conditional cash transfer (CCT) policies in Latin American, the program have lifted millions of people from poverty around the world. According to a World Bank impact evaluation report, the Philippine 4P's beneficiaries have spent their cash payments in education and medical expenses. This led the Philippine government to expand the program coverage to include children aged 15-18 to put more children in school and keep their attendance.

With the gradual improvement in life of the Filipinos, the gains of the program and the reforms introduced can now be felt though microscopically by our less fortunate brothers and sisters. The path towards the attainment of inclusive growth has been paved but more attention, detail and evaluation of the program should be put in place. And to sustain the gains of the program, to cover more beneficiaries and see to it that the efficient implementation of program will not be put to naught, the institutionalization of the program is hereby proposed.



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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps)
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AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
2 *Congress assembled:*
3

4
5 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Pantawid Pamilyang
6 Pilipino Program (4Ps) Act”.
7

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

- 16 (a) Provide assistance to the poor to alleviate their immediate needs;
17 (b) Break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through investment in
18 human capital and improved delivery of basic services to the poor,
19 particularly education, health and nutrition;
20 (c) Promote gender equality and empowerment of women;
21 (d) Achieve universal primary education;
22 (e) Reduce child mortality; and
23 (f) Improve maternal health.

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

2
3 **(a) Case management** refers to a process used by the Department of
4 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to enable the household-
5 beneficiaries to improve their functioning by dealing with their
6 difficulties specifically in complying with the conditionalities of the
7 Program;

8 **(b) Compliance verification** refers to the checking and monitoring
9 done to ensure that the qualified household-beneficiaries comply with
10 conditions for entitlement set forth by the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino
11 Program (4Ps);

12 **(c) Conditional cash grant** refers to the amount being received by the
13 qualified household-beneficiaries who comply with the conditions for
14 entitlement;

15 **(d) Extremely poor** refers to households, duly identified by the
16 standardized targeting system, whose income falls short of enabling
17 them to provide even just their nutritional requirements;

18 **(e) Grantee** refers to the most responsible adult member of the
19 qualified household-beneficiary authorized to receive the conditional
20 cash transfer;

21 **(f) Grievance Redress System** refers to the mechanism of the DSWD
22 which addresses and resolves issues and concerns related to the
23 implementation of the Program;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (n) **Standardized Targeting System** refers to a system for identifying
13 who and where the poor households are through the generation of
14 socioeconomic database of poor households that is adopted by
15 national government agencies and implemented by the DSWD.

16
17 **SEC. 4. Selection of Qualified Household-Beneficiaries.** – On a nationwide basis,
18 the DSWD shall select qualified household-beneficiaries using a standardized
19 targeting system. The DSWD shall conduct a revalidation of targeting of beneficiaries
20 every three (3) years.

21
22 **SEC. 5. Local Verification Committee.** – A Local Verification Committee shall be
23 created in every municipality or city composed of two (2) local government unit
24 representatives, an accredited health-service provider from the barangay, a
25 representative of an accredited civil society organization, and the school head as
26 designated by the Department of Education (DepED).

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

29
30 **SEC. 6. Conditional Cash Transfer.** – Subject to certain conditions, each qualified
31 household-beneficiary shall receive a conditional cash transfer equivalent to five
32 hundred pesos (P500.00) per month for health and nutrition expenses or the
33 equivalent of six thousand pesos (P6,000.00) per qualified household-beneficiary per
34 year.

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

- 3
- 4 (a) Three hundred pesos (P300.00) per month per child enrolled in
5 elementary or the equivalent of three thousand pesos (P3,000.00)
6 per a ten (10)-month school year;
 - 7 (b) Five hundred pesos (P500.00) per month per child enrolled in junior
8 high school or the equivalent of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00)
9 per a ten (10)-month school year; and
 - 10 (c) Seven hundred pesos (P700.00) per month per child enrolled in
11 senior high school or the equivalent of seven thousand pesos
12 (P7,000.00) per a ten (10)-month school year.
- 13

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

17

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

- 21 (a) Children zero (0) to five (5) years old must receive regular
22 preventive health check-ups and vaccinations;
- 23 (b) Children six (6) to thirteen (13) years old must avail of deworming
24 pills at least twice a year;
- 25 (c) Children three (3) to five (5) years old must attend day care or
26 preschool classes at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the time;
- 27 (d) Children must attend elementary or high school classes at least
28 eighty-five percent (85%) of the time;
- 29 (e) Pregnant women must avail of pre- and post-natal care and give
30 birth with the assistance of a skilled or trained health care
31 professional in a health facility;

- 1 (f) At least one (1) responsible person must attend family development
2 sessions and natural family planning sessions conducted by the
3 DSWD, at least once a month;
- 4 (g) At least one (1) responsible person must join and complete at least
5 two (2) government-recognized or accredited nongovernment
6 organization (NGO)-sponsored entrepreneurship or livelihood
7 training programs;
- 8 (h) At least one (1) responsible person must maintain cleanliness in the
9 surroundings and practice proper garbage disposal;
- 10 (i) At least one (1) responsible person must plant trees in the
11 surroundings; and
- 12 (j) At least one (1) responsible person must assist, help or participate in
13 bayanihan projects in their respective barangay or municipality.
14

15 **SEC. 8. *Noncompliance with Conditions.*** – The responsible person of a reported
16 qualified household-beneficiary who fails to comply with the conditions set forth in
17 Section 7 of this Act shall at first be notified in writing. After four (4) months of
18 noncompliance, the household-beneficiary shall be subject to case management. If,
19 despite the case management, the qualified household-beneficiary continues with
20 noncompliance, the benefits under this Act may be suspended. Should the qualified
21 household-beneficiary so notified persist in not complying with the conditions within a
22 period of one (1) year, the conditional cash grant shall be cancelled.
23

24 **SEC. 9. *Mode of Cash Transfer.*** – The conditional cash transfer shall be made by
25 the DSWD. The conditional cash grant shall be received by the grantee or any of the
26 grantee's duly authorized representative on a bimonthly basis through an authorized
27 government depository bank duly identified by the DSWD, using different appropriate
28 payment modes, including cash card, over-the-counter transaction, money
29 remittance services, conduit rural banks, and cooperatives.
30

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

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

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

9
10 **SEC. 11. *Loan Assistance.*** – Responsible persons who successfully completed the
11 entrepreneurship or livelihood programs required under Section 7 of this Act may be
12 given loan assistance as their initial capital by the appropriate government agency
13 that will implement relevant programs pursuant to Section 16 of this Act.

14
15 **SEC. 12. *Five (5)-Year Maximum Limit.*** – Each qualified household-beneficiary
16 shall receive the conditional cash grant for a maximum period of five (5) years.

17
18 **SEC. 13. *Lead Agency.*** – The DSWD shall serve as the central planning,
19 coordinating, implementing and monitoring body of the Program. In the
20 implementation of this Act, the DSWD shall have the following functions:

- 21 (a) Select and use an appropriate, effective and cost-efficient method
22 devised for the purpose of identifying and selecting qualified
23 household-beneficiaries;
24 (b) Identify and select the target household-beneficiaries on the basis
25 of a uniform, objective and transparent selection process;
26 (c) Conduct seminar-workshops and training programs in order to
27 ensure qualified household-beneficiary awareness of the conditions
28 and other actions pertinent to this Act;
29 (d) Coordinate with different national and local agencies, including
30 organizations from the private sector to ensure full implementation
31 of statutory commitments herein;
32 (e) Set up monitoring and evaluation systems and methodologies on
33 compliance of conditions, implementation of operations, and output
34 and impact assessments. It shall also coordinate with the advisory

1 and monitoring committees at the national, regional and municipal
2 levels to verify compliance once a month using the monitoring and
3 evaluation systems designed for the purpose;

4 (f) Recommend to the President measures and policies for the
5 responsive delivery of the commitments under this Act;

6 (g) Coordinate with different national and local agencies to maintain
7 and update objective poverty maps which will be checked and
8 cross-checked periodically for duplications and inaccurate or
9 erroneous information;

10 (h) Formulate implementing rules and guidelines for the enforcement of
11 this Act;

12 (i) Submit an annual report to Congress including, but not limited to, all
13 aspects of its operations, financial status and other relevant data;
14 and

15 (j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or incidental to
16 the proper implementation of the provisions of this Act.

17
18 **SEC. 14. *Advisory Council.*** – An Advisory Council shall be created at the
19 municipal, regional and national levels to be headed by the DSWD and may be
20 composed of representatives from the DepED, Technical Education and Skills
21 Development Authority, Department of Health, Philippine Health Insurance
22 Corporation, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Trade
23 and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment, National Anti-Poverty
24 Commission, the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP), the local
25 government unit concerned, and accredited NGOs, as members.

26
27 The Advisory Council is principally tasked to monitor and assess actions and
28 activities relative to the implementation of the Program. It shall also serve as a
29 Grievance Committee tasked to accept complaints and grievances that may arise
30 within their respective territorial jurisdictions, conduct investigation in specific cases
31 and dispose cases filed in connection thereto, using the Grievance Redress System.

32
33 **SEC. 15. *Independent Monitoring Committee.*** – An Independent Monitoring
34 Committee at the municipal, regional and national level composed of representatives

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

13
14 **SEC. 17. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
15 this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current and subsequent
16 General Appropriations Acts. The appropriation shall continue until the Program has
17 covered sixty percent (60%) of the total number of extremely poor families in the
18 Philippines, as may be determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority at the time of
19 the enactment of this Act. The appropriation shall be included in the annual
20 appropriation of the DSWD.

21
22 **SEC. 18. *Penalty.*** – Any person, public or private, whether or not acting in
23 conspiracy with public officials, who, by act or omission, inserts or allows the
24 insertion of data or false information, or who diverts from what ought to be contained
25 in the registry, with the view of altering the fact, or aiding in the grant of the money to
26 persons other than the qualified household-beneficiaries, shall be penalized with
27 imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months, or a
28 fine of not less than ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than twenty
29 thousand pesos (P20,000.00), or both imprisonment and fine, at the discretion of the
30 court. Administrative sanctions shall be imposed without prejudice to prosecution in
31 the proper courts.

32
33 **SEC. 19. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.*** – Upon the effectivity of this
34 Act, a congressional oversight committee, hereafter to be referred to as the 4Ps

1 Committee, is hereby constituted. The 4Ps Committee shall be composed of
2 fourteen (14) members with the chairpersons of the Committee on Poverty
3 Alleviation of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Social Justice,
4 Welfare and Rural Development of the Senate and six (6) additional members from
5 each House, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and
6 the Senate President, respectively. This Committee is principally tasked to set the
7 overall framework to monitor and ensure the proper implementation of this Act. It
8 shall likewise determine inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend necessary
9 remedial legislation or executive measures.

10
11 **SEC. 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within six (6) months from the
12 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, in
13 coordination with appropriate government departments and agencies, with the
14 participation of the local government units, promulgate the necessary rules and
15 regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

16
17 **SEC. 21. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
18 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain
19 in full force and effect.

20
21 **SEC. 22. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
22 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
23 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
24 accordingly.

25
26 **SEC. 23. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
27 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

28
29 *Approved,*