

**HONORABLE MICHAEL L. ROMERO, Ph.D.**

Chairperson  
Committee on Poverty Alleviation  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Attention: **Maria Lourdes Sagmit Mendoza**  
Committee Secretary

Dear Representative Romero,

This refers to your request for comments and recommendations on the following House measures:

House Bill	Title	Author
House Bill No. 6813	An Act Strengthening Beneficiary Identification and Targeting Mechanisms, Inclusion of a Food and Nutrition Grant and Amending for this Purpose Republic Act No. 11310, Otherwise Known as "An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)"	Rep. Paul R. Daza
House Bill No. 8040	An Act Expanding the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 11310, Otherwise Known as "An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)," and For Other Purposes	Rep. Franz S. Pumaren

Health and nutrition are among the focal components of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). As the national poverty reduction and human capital investment program, the 4Ps recognizes the crucial role of nutrition in overall human development, which is instrumental to achieving every individual's self-sufficiency. It acknowledges that lack of proper nutrition, especially in the person's first 1,000 days, may lead to the severe and irreversible effect of stunting, which is attributed to increased health risks, poor educational performance, and lost productivity.

Given the foregoing, the DSWD 4Ps expresses its support to House Bill No. 8040 entitled "*An Act Expanding the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 11310, Otherwise Known as 'An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)' and for Other*

Purposes, and House Bill No. 6813 entitled “An Act Strengthening Mechanisms, Inclusion, of a Food and Nutrition Grant and Amending for this Purpose the Republic Act No. 11310, otherwise known as “An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)” filed by Representative Paul R. Daza.

For further enhancement of HBN 6813 and 8040, we respectfully submit the following comments and recommendations:

Sections in RA 11310	Provisions in HBN 6813 & HBN 8040	4Ps NPMO Comments and Recommendations
Section 3	<p><b>HBN 8040</b></p> <p><b>Section 3. Definition of Terms.</b> -As used in this Act, the following terms are defined, as follows: xxx</p> <p><b>(O) STUNTING REFERS TO CHRONIC UNDERNUTRITION DURING THE MOST CRITICAL PERIODS AND DEVELOPMENT IN EARLY LIFE. IT IS DEFINED AS PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED ZERO (0) TO FIFTY-NINE MO (59) MONTHS WHOSE HEIGHT AND AGE IS BELOW MINUS TWO (-2) SD (STANDARD DEVIATION) FOR MODERATE STUNTING AND (-3) SD FOR SEVERE STUNTING FROM THE MEDIAN OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) GROWTH STANDARDS.</b></p>	Adopt
Section 6	<p><b>HBN 6813</b></p> <p><b>Eligible Beneficiaries.</b> -Farmers, fisher folks, homeless families, Indigenous Peoples, <b>HOUSEHOLDS WITH UNDERNOURISHED AND STUNTED CHILDREN AGED ZERO (0) TO FIVE (5)</b> and those in the informal settler sector...</p> <p><b>HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED AS FOOD POOR BASED ON THE SUBSISTENCE THRESHOLD ISSUED BY PSA AT THE TIME OF SELECTION SHALL BE PRIORITIZED IN THE SELECTION PROCESS OF THE BENEFICIARIES</b></p>	Adopt
Section 7	<b>HBN 6813</b>	Adopt

	<p>Conditional Cash Transfer to Beneficiaries - The Advisory Council shall determine the amount of conditional cash transfer to beneficiaries with the following schemes:</p> <p>(a) xxx</p> <p>(b) xxx</p> <p>(c) xxx</p> <p>(d) xxx</p> <p><b>(e) FOOD AND NUTRITION GRANT SHALL NOT BE LOWER THAN (PHP 1,000.00) PER MONTH FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWELVE MONTHS PER YEAR</b></p> <p>The <b>HEALTH AND FOOD AND NUTRITION</b> grant component aims to promote healthy practices and family development, improve the health nutritional status of pregnant and post-partum mothers, infants and young children, and increase the use of health services by the household-beneficiary. The health grant is a fixed amount and does not depend on the number of members in the household.</p> <p><b>THE FOOD AND NUTRITION GRANT AIMS TO ADDRESS IF NOT ERADICATE MALNUTRITION AND STUNTING BY EMPOWERING POOR HOUSEHOLDS TO PURCHASE HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD AS PRESCRIBED IN THE PHILIPPINE DIETARY REFERENCE INTAKE OF THE FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE</b></p>	
<p>Section 7</p>	<p><b>HBN 8040</b></p> <p>Conditional Cash Transfer to Beneficiaries - The Advisory Council shall determine the amount of conditional cash transfer to beneficiaries with the following schemes:</p> <p>(a) xxx</p> <p>(b) xxx</p>	<p>The proposed increase in the health and nutrition grant shall be studied by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), who will, in turn, recommend to the National Advisory Council an</p>

	<p>(c) xxx</p> <p>(d) Health and nutrition shall not be lower than <del>Seven hundred fifty pesos (Php 750.00)</del> <b>ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (Php 1,800.00)</b> per month for a maximum of 12 months per year.</p> <p>(e) <b>RICE SUBSIDY SHALL NOT BE LOWER THAN SIX HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 600.00) PER MONTH FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWELVE (12) MONTHS PER YEAR.</b></p> <p>The <del>health/nutrition</del> <b>HEALTH AND NUTRITION</b> grant component aims to promote <b>HEALTHY</b> practices and family development, improve the health nutritional status of pregnant and post-partum mothers, infants and young children, <b>ADDRESS THE HIGH PREVALENCE OF STUNTING</b>, and increase the use of health services by the household-beneficiary. The <b>HEALTH AND NUTRITION</b> grant is a fixed amount and does not depend on the number of members in the household.</p> <p><b>THE RICE SUBSIDY COMPONENT AIMS TO EASE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF HOUSEHOLD- BENEFICIARIES AND INCREASE THEIR FOOD SECURITY. THE RICE SUBSIDY IS A FIXED AMOUNT AND DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD</b></p>	<p>evidence-based and data-driven amount.</p> <p>The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) is the agency mandated to recommend to the National Advisory Council whether the cash grant should be adjusted to ensure that the amount is sufficient to make a positive impact. Hence, to ensure that the recommended increase in cash grants is accurate and evidence-based, we recommend that PIDS be consulted on the proposed adjustments to the health cash grant.</p>
<p>Section 10</p>	<p><b>HBN 8040</b></p> <p><b>Section 10. Periodic Assessment.</b> -Every three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) shall conduct an impact assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of the 4Ps, the veracity of the list of household-beneficiaries, and the program implementation.</p> <p>The amounts indicated in Section 7 of this Act shall be made available to the qualified household-beneficiaries during the first three (3) years of the implementation of this Act: <i>Provided, That every <del>six (6)</del> THREE (3) years</i></p>	<p>In crafting the 4Ps Act, the Department of Budget and Management recommended a 6-year interval between periodic assessments of the amount of cash grants to be conducted by PIDS. This recommendation took into consideration the inflation rate in the Philippines, such that if PIDS recommends an increase in cash grants, the adjusted amount would be in the 100s to avoid causing beneficiaries difficulty in</p>

	<p>after the effectivity of this Act, the PIDS shall recommend to the NAC whether the cash grants shall be adjusted to its present value using the consumer price index, as published by the PSA: <i>Provided, further,</i> That the NAC shall ensure that the grant amounts are sufficient to make a positive impact on the health, nutrition, and education of the beneficiaries and are timely received and spent by the beneficiaries.</p>	<p>withdrawing the total amount of their grants from their cash cards. Please note that any amount less than PHP 100.00 cannot be withdrawn from the ATMs.</p> <p>However, it is our view that the proposed amendment on the shortening of the interval of periodic assessments from six (6) years to three (3) years may be timely due to recent high inflation rates, which may have caused inflationary losses among the 4Ps beneficiaries.</p> <p>To reiterate, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) is the agency mandated to recommend to the National Advisory Council whether the cash grant should be adjusted to ensure that the amount is sufficient to make a positive impact. Hence, to ensure that the recommended increase in cash grants is accurate and evidence-based, we recommend that PIDS be consulted on the proposed adjustments to the health cash grant.</p>
<p>Section 11</p>	<p><b>HBN 6813</b></p> <p><b>Section 11. Conditions for Entitlement.</b> -All qualified household- beneficiaries shall comply with all of the following conditions as a requirement for continued program eligibility:</p> <p>(a) Pregnant women must avail of pre-natal services, give birth in a health facility attended by a skilled health professional, and receive post-partum care and post-natal care for her</p>	<p>The lead agency in charge of monitoring and evaluating nutrition indicators should be specified.</p> <p>There must be a definition of children who are malnourished or stunted.</p>

	<p>newborn;</p> <p>(b) Children zero (0) to five (5) years old must receive regular preventive health and nutrition services including check-ups and vaccinations;</p> <p><b>(c) CHILDREN WHO ARE MALNOURISHED, OR STUNTED MUST UNDERGO MONTHLY MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF NUTRITION INDICATORS AS FACILITATED BY RESPECTIVE BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLAR OR LOCAL HEALTH UNITS</b></p> <p>(d) xxx</p> <p>(e) xxx</p> <p>(f) xxx</p> <p>(g) xxx</p>	
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Given this, the DSWD reiterates its support for HBN 6813 and 8040 with some comments and recommendations, for consideration.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**REX GATCHALIAN**  
 Secretary  
 Date: JUN 08 2023