

**Honorable SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL, M.D.**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Social Services  
RVM Building, House of Representatives  
Quezon City

**Dear Representative Eriguel:**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development strongly supports **House Bill No. 4469** entitled: "An Act Institutionalizing the Granting of Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), And Appropriating Funds Therefor" or the "**AICS Program Act**", introduced by Representative Marisol C. Panotes, which seeks to institutionalize the AICS program in order to alleviate the plight of the vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are recommending the following:

**1. Section 3. Definition of Terms**

To revise the definition of Financial and/or material assistance, which will read as: "*Financial and or material assistance refers to monetary support, in the form of **outright cash, guarantee letter, coupon, check or voucher that has monetary value, which covers but not limited to assistance to burial, transportation, medical, educational, assistance to other support services and other allied assistance or physical aid such as food, clothing, general assistive devices.***"

**2. Section 4. Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS)**

To revise the paragraph, which will read as: "***Each qualified target beneficiary shall receive financial and/or material assistance based on the assessment of the social worker.***"

**3. Section 5. Type, Kind and Amount of Financial Assistance**

To revise the second paragraph, which will read as: "***Appropriate documentation as provided for in the DSWD AICS guidelines shall support all disbursements of funds. Social Case Study Report is required of those whose assistance is higher than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).***"

4. **Other Recommendations:**

- 4.1 Include a separate Section for Implementation Structure, which will read as: **“A *Crisis Intervention Program Management Office (CIPMO)* shall be created at the Central Office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development that will ensure that AICS program as provided in the law is implemented by the concerned agencies”**;
  - 4.2 To ensure that AICS Offices shall be provided adequate staffing including social workers. The DSWD shall create the required plantilla and staffing pattern necessary for the implementation of this Act in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Civil Service Commission;
  - 4.3 The DSWD shall include in its budget to be submitted to the DBM the budget for the personnel services requirements. Such budgetary requirements shall be included in the General Appropriations Act;
  - 4.4 To consider the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, or the “Local Government Code of 1991”, regarding the devolution of [some] social services, and the increased computation of the Internal Revenue Allotment of the Local Government Code based on the case of Honorable Mandanas v. Executive Secretary Ochoa;
  - 4.5 To delete the term “National Housing Targeting System for Poverty Reduction” since it was not used in the proposed bill.
5. Include the Department of Health as one of the key national agencies in the institutionalization of AICS.

For the Committee’s consideration.

Very truly yours,



**ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**

Secretary

Date: MAR 19 2020

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