



HONORABLE RISA HONTIVEROS
Chairperson
Committee on Women, Children
Family Relations and Gender Equality
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Attention: **Ms. Gemma Genoveva Tanpiengco**
Committee Secretary

Dear **SENATOR HONTIVEROS**,

This refers to your request for comments and recommendations on House Bill No. 8497 or “An Act Promoting Inclusive Education, Entrepreneurship and Employment for Sustainable Development Among Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Adult Beneficiaries” during the Budget Hearing with the Senate Committee on Finance “Sub-Committee I” last 20 September 2023.

Foremost, the DSWD supports House Bill (HB) No. 8497, which aims to promote education among adult members of 4Ps households through the alternative learning system, employment training, and entrepreneurship training with the view of achieving sustainable development.

To enhance the proposed bill, may we submit the following comments for consideration:

1. In Section 1:

- It is recommended to insert the word “the” after the word “through”, for the paragraph to read as: *(i) Promote education among adult beneficiaries through **the** alternative learning system, entrepreneurship training, and employment training to achieve sustainable development.*

2. In Section 2:

- It is recommended to amend letter (e) on The Community Mobilization Grant for the paragraph to read as: ***Community Mobilization Grant shall not be lower than five hundred pesos (P500.00) per instance, per adult beneficiary of the adult education program.***
- It should be clarified that the phrase “per instance” means the scope of the grant is per program or per enrollment in a chosen education track.

- It is highly recommended that the increase in education and health grants shall be studied by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) which shall, in turn, recommend to the National Advisory Council an evidence-based and data-driven amount of grant.
- It is suggested to indicate parameters for determining the maximum amount of Community Mobilization Grant that may be given.
- It is suggested to specify the frequency of payment; the maximum number of months to avail; the maximum number of family members to avail, and the fund source.
- It is recommended to identify what government agency should monitor the community mobilization grant.

3. In Section 3:

- In receiving the educational, health, and nutrition grants and rice subsidy, it is recommended to state that the conditions set pertain only to adult beneficiaries who shall be able to avail of the Community Mobilization Grant and not to 4Ps children beneficiaries.
- It is suggested to set the maximum number of education tracks an adult beneficiary can avail of.
- It is suggested to indicate in letter (g), number (1) on Non-formal Education through the ALS track the following:
 - The maximum number of adult 4Ps members in a household who shall be able to avail of the adult education track.
 - The minimum and maximum age limit of adult beneficiaries who shall be able to avail of the adult education track.
- It is suggested to clarify and consider in letter (g), number (2) on Entrepreneurship Track the following:
 - The provision of financial capital by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is part of the Entrepreneurship Track. Presently, the majority of the 4Ps beneficiaries cannot meet the eligibility requirements set by the DTI in availing of the Entrepreneurship Track.
- It is suggested in letter (g), number (3) on Employment Track that TESDA should prioritize 4Ps adult beneficiaries who did not graduate

from high school and exempt them from any eligibility requirements in availing such track.

4. In Section 4:

- It is suggested to clarify in letter (a) of the Post Skills Training that beneficiaries who successfully completed the entrepreneurship track shall be granted financial capital by the DTI to start up a micro or small business enterprise; and
- State that adult beneficiaries who completed any of the education tracks shall be required to seek employment or establish a small business.

5. It is suggested to provide a section for the definition of terminologies and include but shall not be limited to the following:

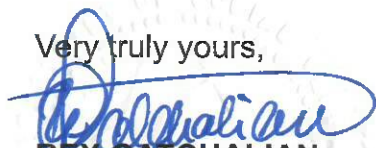
- **Adult Beneficiaries** - refer to members of 4Ps households aged 18 and above who are not monitored children.
- **Conditional Mobilization Grant** - refers to a conditional cash transfer used to finance meals and transportation related to the availment of adult education under this act. It must not be lower than five hundred pesos (P500.00) per instance, per adult beneficiary of the Adult Education Program.
- **Adult Education** - refers to interventions that improve technical or professional qualifications, further develop abilities, acquire or enrich knowledge, and skills and competencies in a new field through Alternative Learning Track, Entrepreneurship Track or Employment Track.
- **ALS Track** - refers to a parallel learning system that provides a viable alternative to the existing formal education and encompasses both non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills.
- **Entrepreneurship Track** - refers to interventions that focus on the establishment of microenterprise through enhancement of skills, provision of financial capital and building or rebuilding physical and natural assets, and which covers product development, marketing, and basic business finance
- **Employment Track** - refers to programs through which learners and workers are provided with learning opportunities to acquire, upgrade or both, their ability, knowledge and behavior pattern required as qualifications for a job or range of jobs in a given occupational area.

Given this, the DSWD reiterates its support for HB No. 8497. It complements the previously submitted proposed amendatory bill on the 4Ps law. These measures have complementary goals that provide the poor, vulnerable and marginalized individuals and families with diversified livelihoods and opportunities for sources of income.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary
Date: NOV 15 2023