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S. No. 2788

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(In substitution of S. Nos. 1821, 2032, 2328, and 2638)

Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance; with Senators Tulfo, Angara, Marcos, Go, and Gatchalian, as authors thereof

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR AID TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES SEEKING MEDICAL, FUNERAL, FOOD, TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE, PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES, INSTITUTIONALIZING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS IN CRISIS SITUATION (AICS) PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Assistance to
2 Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Act".

3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State shall promote a just and dynamic
4 social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free
5 the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services,

1 promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life
2 for all, specifically to individuals in extreme and difficult situations.

3 **Sec. 3. Coverage.** - This Act shall cover all individuals and families determined
4 to be in a "state of active crisis" or "crisis situation", as defined in this Act, or needing
5 financial or material support from the National Government, whether or not as a form
6 of augmentation to that provided by the individual or family's local government unit
7 (LGU), based on the assessment of a Department of Social Welfare and Development
8 (DSWD) Social Worker. In general, any individual, whether indigent or not, including
9 persons with disability, senior citizens, solo parents, farmers, fisherfolk, and other
10 vulnerable sectors, who is in a crisis situation or in difficult circumstances in life may
11 be assisted through the provision of any of the assistance available under this Act,
12 subject to the guidelines to be provided by the DSWD.

13 **Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are
14 hereby defined as follows:

15 a. *AICS Program* shall refer to a social safety net or stop-gap measure to support the
16 recovery of individuals and families suffering from unexpected life events or crises
17 through the provision of psychosocial intervention and/or direct financial/material
18 assistance that may enable them to meet their basic needs in the form of food,
19 transportation, medical, educational and burial assistance. It is also known as the
20 "Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Program", and herein interchangeably
21 referred to as "AICS" or "Program";

22 b. *Authorized Representative* refers to any person who represents a beneficiary who,
23 for certain reasons, will not be physically present in processing and claiming the
24 assistance requested. Authorized representatives shall be limited to:

25 1. *Family Member(s)* refers to a relative up to the fourth degree of
26 consanguinity or affinity, including the spouse, children, parents, siblings,
27 uncles, aunts, grandparents and grandchildren of the beneficiary.

Beneficiaries including, but not limited to, children, minor, or a foundling child who have no parents may be represented by their surviving grandparents or person with special parental authority; and

2. In extremely justifiable circumstances, any other individual acting as a representative of a beneficiary. Provided, that said individual shall not be allowed to represent more than two (2) beneficiaries who are unrelated to him/her for every calendar year.

For this purpose, the information of the representative shall also be subject to the crossmatching process, as defined in this Act;

- c. *Beneficiary* refers to the person who actually needs the assistance, or on whose behalf the assistance is being sought from the DSWD through an authorized representative. The beneficiary is the ultimate recipient of the assistance;
- d. *Case Management* refers to a process of assessing, planning, managing, coordinating and advocating for services and other interventions used by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to enable the qualified beneficiaries to improve their functioning by dealing with their difficulties in addressing their needs;
- e. *Cash Voucher* refers to a coupon or document provided to individuals in crisis with the power to purchase authorized items set and identified by the Department;
- f. *Certificate of Eligibility (CE)* refers to a document issued by the DSWD, duly approved by the approving authorities, that proves that the client is eligible to receive the interventions and services under the AICS program;
- g. *Client* refers to any individual, group, or family who may be the beneficiary who seeks assistance or the authorized representative, on behalf of the beneficiary due to the latter's inability to be physically present;
- h. *Crisis Situation(s)* refer to a time in the individual's life when they experience a breakdown or disruption in their usual or normal daily activities or family

1 functioning. Such disruption prevents them from adequately performing their social
2 roles and functions, and may lead them into worsened life situations;

3 i. *Crossmatching* refers to the process of counter-checking the information or data
4 sets provided by the client who seeks the assistance of the DSWD;

5 j. *Financial Assistance* refers to the provision of augmentation to the needs of an
6 individual either through cash, cash vouchers, guarantee letters provided to
7 qualified beneficiaries;

8 k. *General Intake Sheet (GIS)* refers to the form used by the DSWD Social Workers
9 to record the basic information of the beneficiary and the authorized
10 representative, the problem presented, and intake the assessment as well as the
11 recommendation of assistance to the beneficiaries;

12 l. *Guarantee Letter (GL)* refers to the document issued by the DSWD in favor of the
13 beneficiary addressed to service providers to guarantee payment of the service on
14 behalf of the beneficiary. The service providers may include hospitals, funeral
15 homes, and such other providers that are willing to accept the GLs issued by the
16 DSWD for payment of their services and/or goods for the beneficiary;

17 m. *Material Assistance Distribution Sheet (MOS)* refers to the form used by the DSWD
18 to list/record all clients who will receive material assistance as provided in this Act;

19 n. *Outright Cash* refers to the actual monetary aid provided to the beneficiary;

20 o. *Registered Social Worker* is a qualified professional in public or private practice,
21 with a license to practice social work, recognized and designated by the DSWD or
22 the LSWDO. Their role encompasses an understanding of the client's needs,
23 assessing and employing appropriate interventions aligned to each individual's
24 circumstances, all within the framework of the approved guidelines and
25 professional standards;

26 p. *Repeat or Recurring Clients* are those who seek assistance for at least three (3) to
27 four (4) times in a quarter or at least more than twice in a semester and once in a

quarter, or those who visit the Crisis Intervention Unit/Sections (CIU/S) Office or SWAD Satellite Office (SWAD Office) regularly or seasonally due to lack of knowledge on possible types of assistance;

q. *Social Case Study Report (SCSR)* refers to the document prepared by a professional social worker in public and private practice that describes in detail the situation and conditions of the beneficiary, including his/her social history. The document likewise includes assessment, plan for intervention and recommendation; and

r. *Service Provider* refer to hospitals, funeral homes, and other institutions, and enterprises, such as, but not limited to, diagnostic laboratories, clinics, and drugstores among others which are willing to accept the GLs issued by the DSWD for payment of their services and/or goods provided to the beneficiary.

Sec. 5. *Lead Agency and Coordination with Related Government Assistance Program.* - The DSWD shall be the lead agency in the implementation of the AICS Program and shall be responsible in the administration, sourcing, assessment, and approval of all applications in availing from the appropriated funds for the implementation of the Program.

Sec. 6. *Modes of Implementation and Delivery of the AICS Program.* – The services under the AICS Program may take the following forms:

1. *Financial Assistance* - It may take the form of:

a) *Medical Assistance* - This assistance shall cover hospitalization expenses and professional fees, cost of medicines and other medical treatment or procedures such as implants, standard common laboratory tests, diagnostic imaging procedures, physical/speech/occupational therapy for any needs, intrapartum/postpartum complications blood transfusion, anti-rabies severe oral complications, chronic illnesses, provision of assistive devices for persons with disabilities and medical supplies including oxygen tanks and life support machines.

1 A client may be given assistance based on a hospital bill only once.
2 Additionally, an in-patient beneficiary may request other assistance if the
3 needed medicine/s or treatment of the patient is not available at the
4 hospital of confinement in supplement to PhilHealth benefits.

5 Other health care expenses such as immunization, normal birthing (except
6 for birth delivery with complications or victims of rape), admission to
7 rehabilitation centers due to drug abuse, cosmetic surgery, purchase of
8 vitamins and other supplements eyeglasses, and dental problems, which
9 are not directly related to medical treatment or the aftercare shall not be
10 covered by assistance. Also, reimbursement of payments will not be
11 covered.

12 b) *Funeral Assistance* - This assistance shall cover funeral and other related
13 expenses including, but not limited to, expenses in bringing the remains
14 of the deceased to his or her residence or hometown, interment,
15 cremation, and/or burial site in accordance with existing customary
16 practices of the family especially among Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and
17 Moros.

18 Funeral and related expenses due to a disaster, calamity, and/or critical
19 events or similar circumstances resulting in one or multiple casualties
20 within the family may allow the surviving family member/immediate
21 relative of the deceased to request outright cash assistance subject to the
22 assessment of the DSWD Social Worker, without the need of a SCSR.

23 c) *Transportation Assistance* - The assistance for the purchase or payment
24 of transport (air/sea/land) tickets and/or expenses for travels of
25 beneficiary/client, within the Philippines, for purposes not limited to,
26 emergency concerns such as death or care of sick immediate family
27 members or relatives, rescue of abused or trafficked relatives, or events
28 of disaster/calamity that require immediate presence of the beneficiary.

1 Outright cash may be considered for those traveling using multiple modes
2 of transportation or when purchasing tickets and other expenses are not
3 available.

4 If the DSWD procures the ticket for the beneficiary, the expenses for food
5 and other necessary expenses for the travel shall be given to the
6 beneficiary in cash. The Social Worker shall state in the GIS or a separate
7 justification attached to the CE his/her assessment to justify the provision
8 of outright cash.

9 In special cases, such as relatives who will assist in the transfer of cadaver,
10 outright cash may be provided given the assessment and recommendation
11 of the Social Worker.

12 d) *Educational Assistance* –A form of assistance given to a learners-in-crisis,
13 to help defray school expenses and/or cost of sending learners/children
14 to school such as school fees, school supplies, school projects,
15 allowances,-and other related expenses.

16 This assistance shall be limited to "Learners in Crisis" which is defined as
17 a student in elementary, secondary or tertiary level who is facing
18 significant challenges or difficulties that impede their ability to function
19 well academically and impact the student's well-being and ability to learn
20 effectively. These shall be considered but not limited to:

- 21 a. Children with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or whose
22 parents are living with HIV;
- 23 b. Child of Distressed OFW such as repatriated, unfinished contract,
24 abused with certification from OWWA;
- 25 c. A Student who is a Person With Disabilities or a Solo Parent;
- 26 d. A Child of a Person With Disabilities or a Solo Parent;
- 27 e. A Student or Child of Rebel Returnees;
- 28 f. Children who are Orphaned or Abandoned;

- g. Students who are victims of calamities/disasters, crimes, victims of violence against women and their children, trafficking;
- h. Victims of Abused or displacement;
- i. Students whose parents are persons deprived of liberty and family of Killed-In-Action (KIA)/ Wounded-In-Action (WIA); and
- j. Breadwinners or acting as head of the family/ working students with unemployed parents.

The assistance shall not cover graduate (Masteral) and post-graduate (Doctoral) studies including professional degrees such as Doctor of Medicine and Bachelor of Laws/Juris Doctor, and those expenses for the review for the licensure/bar examinations.

- e) *Cash Relief Assistance for Other Support Services* - This is an assistance in the form of outright cash provided to individuals and families in crisis or in extremely difficult circumstances such as victims of calamities, disasters, crimes, victims of violence against women and their children, trafficking, and repatriated overseas Filipino workers and other similar circumstances, in which the need is not covered under any of the other services of the AICS program. These individuals and families must establish that they are in a state of active crisis or vulnerability to crisis or are recovering therefrom as validated by the assessment of the LSWDO Social Worker or DSWD Social Worker.

Provided, That, financial assistance may be provided in the following modes: (1) Outright cash - For assistance in the amount of Php 10,000.00 and below, the entitled beneficiary/client may claim it from the designated disbursing officer within the day, subject to the availability of funds. Depending on the assessment, the Social Worker may propose the provision of outright cash to the clients who are determined to be better assisted therewith because of their circumstances; and (2) GL - Assistance above Php 10,000.00, especially medical and funeral assistance, shall be released through a GL, unless

1 other modes are necessary, as may be justified by the DSWD Social
2 Worker, in accordance with the rules and regulations.

3 2. Material Assistance - The provision of food and non-food items to the
4 beneficiary who needs the immediate material support which can be covered by the
5 items listed below, subject to the availability of the material assistance and the
6 funding required, and provided that any acquisition of goods and services shall be
7 subject to existing procurement laws, rules, and regulations. This assistance may
8 be given simultaneously or successively with financial assistance based on the
9 assessment of the handling DSWD Social Worker depending on the posing needs
10 of the beneficiary.

11 a. *Family Food Packs and Other Food Items* - These may be in the form of
12 hot/ ready- to-eat/ pre-cooked/ pre-packed meals, or food voucher,
13 whenever available. It may be given to individuals and families in need
14 or in vulnerable situations such as those who are unemployed, without
15 family support, persons with disabilities- in-crisis, homeless individual or
16 family in street situations, or victims of fire incidents, severe drought (El
17 Niño), La Niña, flood, or other similar incidents that cause hunger.

18 The contents of the family food packs may be the same as that regularly
19 provided during disaster operations. However, the Program
20 Management Bureau (PMB) may provide food packs containing ready-
21 to-eat/ pre-cooked/ pre- packed meals, or those especially packaged for
22 groups in vulnerable situations, not limited to, older persons, pregnant
23 women, lactating mothers or other persons with special needs, the
24 standard composition of said food packs may be recommended by the
25 Nutritionist-Dietitian of the PMB, duly approved by the Undersecretary
26 for Operations.

27 Family food packs and other food items are provided by the
28 National Resources and Logistics Management Bureau (NRLMB) of
29 DSWD specifically for individuals and families affected by disasters and
30 calamities and difficult circumstances.

1 However, individuals and families who are unemployed, without
2 family support, PWDs in crisis, homeless, or living on the streets may
3 still receive assistance in the form of cash relief or food assistance.

4 b. *Hygiene and Sleeping Kits* – The contents of these kits may be the same
5 as that regularly provided during disaster operations.

6 c. *Assistive Devices or Technologies* – Assistive devices and technologies
7 are those whose primary purpose is to maintain or improve an
8 individual's functioning and independence to facilitate participation and
9 to enhance overall well-being. Examples of assistive devices and
10 technologies include wheelchairs, canes, walkers, prostheses, hearing
11 aids, visual aids, and specialized computer software and hardware that
12 increase mobility, hearing, vision, or communication capacities.

13 3. *Psychosocial Support Assistance* - a service provided by trained or professional
14 psychosocial support workers to help meet the psychological, emotional, social,
15 and spiritual needs of beneficiaries and their families. It is a set of interventions
16 that intends to positively improve a person's behavior to reduce the impact of
17 stress brought about by a crisis through behavioral modification interventions. It
18 is offered on a case-by-case basis, tailored to the specific needs identified during
19 the client interview and assessment. This is intended for giving immediate relief
20 to psychological and emotional issues under specific circumstances through the
21 following:

22 a. *Psychological First Aid (PFA)* refers to a humane, supportive response to
23 a fellow human being who is suffering and who may need support. It
24 refers to the immediate assistance in the form of comfort giving and
25 clarificatory counseling provided to children, adolescents, adults, and
26 families who are affected by disaster or traumatic incidents. The
27 following are the themes of PFA:

28 (a) providing practical care and support, that does not intrude;

29 (b) assessing needs and concerns;

1 (c) helping people to address basic needs such as, food and water,
2 information;

3 (d) listening to people, but not pressuring them to talk;

4 (e) comforting people and helping them to feel calm;

5 (f) helping people connect to information, services and social
6 supports;

7 (g) protecting people from further harm.

8 This is an evidence-informed modular approach to help children,
9 adolescents, adults, and families who are affected by a disaster or
10 traumatic incident, whether survivors, witnesses, or responders to such
11 events, to cope up with the struggle, stress, trauma so they face new
12 challenges following the event or otherwise return to their normal social
13 functioning. This aims to provide early assistance within days or weeks
14 following an event.

15 b. *Social Work Counseling* – Refers to counseling to help clients clarify
16 issues, gain insight into their feelings and thoughts affecting their
17 behaviors, and facilitate them to process these feelings and thoughts, to
18 identify potential solutions, and to deal effectively with their problems
19 resulting in a state of active crisis. This is conducted by utilizing the
20 Social Work Perspective in counseling such as the use of the Bio-Psycho-
21 Social approach and the Person-In-Environment framework.

22 4. *Referral Services* - This refers to the assistance that is not available at the offices,
23 bureaus, services, or units of the DSWD or other government agencies and/or
24 institutions. This involves services that are not limited to referrals to legal services,
25 psychological and/or psychiatric interventions, social case management, and
26 admission to facilities deemed to be needed by the beneficiary.

27 If necessary, the social worker handling the case shall prepare a Social
28 Case Study Report indicating his/her assessment and recommendation, and shall

1 include it in the referral letter of the client. He/she may escort the client to the
2 referred agency for proper endorsement. In all cases, the CIU/S shall coordinate
3 accordingly to ensure that the referrals are immediately and properly acted upon
4 for further case management.

5 The DSWD shall integrate and collaborate with other government agencies,
6 LGUs, businesses and labor groups, and civil society groups in implementing similar
7 or related programs and services for an efficient and effective whole-of-nation
8 approach in the delivery of social safety nets.

9 **Sec. 7. *Program Beneficiaries.*** - All individuals and families determined to be
10 in a "state of active crisis" or "crisis situation", as defined in this Act, or needing
11 financial or other social service support/intervention provided to individuals or families
12 in crisis which may complement the support already provided by the Local Government
13 Unit (LGU), government agencies, and non-government organizations, as determined
14 by an assessment conducted by a DSWD Social Worker. In general, any individual,
15 whether indigent, financially incapacitated or in situations of vulnerability, who is in a
16 crisis situation or in difficult circumstances in life may be assisted through any of the
17 assistance provided in the Act.

18 **Sec. 8. *Documentary Requirements.*** - As a general rule, the beneficiary or
19 authorized representative shall submit a copy of their valid identification cards or any
20 alternative document/s for identification, except in cases where the beneficiary or
21 representative has no valid identification card such as, but not limited to, children who
22 are not enrolled in schools, indigenous people, victims of fire, typhoon or other
23 calamities or disasters whether natural or human-induced. In which case, the
24 barangay certification or justification from the DSWD Social Welfare Officer (SWO)
25 pertaining to the absence of a valid identification card shall suffice.

26 A person who is acting as an authorized representative of the beneficiary shall
27 present an authorization letter duly signed by the beneficiary and a photocopy of the
28 beneficiary's ID, except when:

29 a. The client is an immediate family member of the beneficiary;

b. Beneficiary is a minor;

c. Beneficiary has no capacity to act such as:

- Individuals with Cognitive Disabilities: People with severe cognitive impairments or mental disabilities that prevent them from making informed decisions.
- Incapacitated Elderly: Elderly individuals who have lost their mental capacity due to conditions such as dementia.
- Persons with Severe Mental Health Issues: Individuals who are declared legally incapacitated due to severe mental illnesses or disorders.
- Comatose or Unconscious Individuals: People in a coma or unconscious state who cannot make decisions during that period.
- Under other certain circumstances (such as being currently admitted to the hospital with severe trauma), beneficiaries may temporarily lack the capacity to act or make decisions independently.
- Other considerations indicated in Republic Act 386 s. 19499 and other pertinent provisions.

The DSWD may also prescribe the necessary documentary requirements for each type of assistance that may be availed by the program beneficiary.

Sec. 9. *Implementing Procedure.* - The DSWD shall determine the procedure which shall be utilized in the implementation of the AICS Program, as provided in this Act.

Sec. 10. *Rate of Assistance and Frequency of Availment.* - The rates of assistance and the frequency of availment shall be as follows:

Type	Particulars	Amount of Assistance		Frequency of Availment
		Minimum	Maximum	
Transportation Assistance	Land/Sea/Air	Actual cost based on ticket quotation and/or travel expenses		General Rule (GR): Once for the purpose of going back to their place of origin for good.

	Travel			<p>Exceptions (XPN): For Specific cases such as:</p> <p>a. Travel due to death – every death incident</p> <p>b. Travel for medical reasons – as the need arises</p>
Medical Assistance	Hospital Bill	1,000.00	300,000.00	GR: Once per hospital bill XPN: for chronic diseases/ illnesses – per hospitalization or admission
	Medicines	1,000.00	150,000.00	Once every three (3) months
	Laboratory Procedures			
	Other special treatments such as, but not limited to, dialysis, chemotherapy implant and pre-operation procedures			
Funeral Assistance	Funeral Expenses	5,000.00	50,000.00	GR: Per beneficiary or incident of death XPN: Casualties during disasters or calamity – Per casualty
	Transfer of Cadaver		10,000.00	
	Casualties during disaster/ calamity			
Educational Assistance	Elementary students	1,000.00	5,000.00	Once every school year
	High school students	2,000.00		
	Senior high school students	3,000.00	10,000.00	Once every semester (varies per region)
	College and vocational students	4,000.00		

Food Assistance	Food subsidy for individuals or families	2,000.00	5,000.00	GR: Once every semester XPN: Patients – once evry admission
Cash Relief Assistance	Other needs	2,000.00	10,000.00	Once for every applicable incident [calamity]

Provided that, this kind of assistance shall be validated by the CIU/CIS Head/SWAD Team Leader and approved by the authorized approving official or his/her alternate, as determined by the DSWD in the implementing rules and regulations.

Further, the above schedule shall not be interpreted to limit the attending DSWD Social Worker from recommending a higher amount or the provision of a series of assistance that can be simultaneously or successively given, subject to the assessment and justification of the client's circumstances, especially those that may take time before recovery, which shall be validated by the CIU/CIS Head/SWAD Team Leader and approved by the proper authority, as may be provided in the rules and regulations.

This Act shall subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and endorsed by the advisory council, when necessary, adjust the amount of assistance every two (2) years, taking into account the present consumer price index as published by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and relevant economic indicators as reported and published by pertinent government agencies and authorities.

Sec. 11. *Handling of Repeat or Recurring Clients.* - The PMB shall establish a centralized database for repeat or recurring clients, as defined in this Act, that could also be accessed by the FOs to prevent them from availing assistance twice or more in a quarter. These clients shall be under case management and, whenever deemed appropriate, may be endorsed to the LGU where they reside for further intervention.

Sec. 12. *Compliance Mechanism.* - The DSWD shall establish mechanisms to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act. It shall provide a list of prohibited

activities, such as, but not limited to, cuts for commission, job sharing, ghost beneficiaries, duplicate beneficiaries, and padding of beneficiaries.

Any violation of this provision shall result in the reimbursement of any amount involved, with legal interest, and without prejudice to the filing of appropriate civil, criminal or administrative case and to the application of relevant rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit.

SEC. 13. *Staffing Complement* - For the effective implementation of the program, adequate personnel is necessary. For this purpose, establishment of an office with appropriate organization structure shall be developed at the level of DSWD Central Office, Field Offices, Social Welfare and Development and Satellite Offices.

Further, the DSWD is hereby authorized to create the required plantilla and staffing requirements necessary for the implementation of this act in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Civil Service Commission (CSC). The DSWD shall include in the budgetary requirements submission to DBM the required budget for Personnel Services (PS) and Miscellaneous and other Operating Expenses (MOOE). Priority hiring shall be given to the qualified social workers. Budgetary requirements shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA)."

Sec. 14. *Authority to Receive and Administer Donations for AICS Program*. - The Department is hereby authorized under this Act to receive donations from government and non-government organizations and to administer the same strictly and exclusively for the beneficiaries of the AICS Program, subject to relevant and existing rules and regulations.

Sec. 15. *Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation of the AICS Program*. – The DSWD shall establish an AICS Database to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act. This database would facilitate accurate profiling of AICS beneficiaries and serve as a monitoring mechanism to monitor for the benefits provided to them. It could also be used to verify beneficiary qualifications for similar benefits over time such as medical assistance. DSWD shall use the PhilSys number as an identification number

1 of the beneficiaries to establish a standardized monitoring, evaluation, and reporting
2 system to properly document the implementation of the AICS Program.

3 It shall also submit to Congress, and make available to the public, an annual
4 Accomplishment Report and utilization of the funds earmarked for the implementation
5 of the Program. The Report shall include the pertinent details of the implementation,
6 such as, but not limited to, the mode of implementation, number of beneficiaries,
7 donations from private and other organizations, expenditures, number of beneficiaries
8 who acquired assistance under the Program, and other pertinent information as may
9 be necessary. An impact evaluation shall be conducted from time to time, but not later
10 than every three (3) years.

11 **Sec. 16. *Grievance Mechanisms.*** - The DSWD shall establish grievance
12 mechanisms for the filing or reporting of complaints or grievances and other related
13 laws arising from the implementation of the AICS Program. For this purpose, the
14 Department shall ensure that all beneficiaries and stakeholders of the Program have
15 access to these grievance mechanisms.

16 **Sec. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days from
17 the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD shall issue the necessary rules and regulations
18 for the effective implementation of this Act.

19 **Sec. 18. *Appropriations.*** - The appropriations necessary for the initial
20 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the DSWD.
21 Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued implementation shall be included
22 in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA); *Provided*, That such appropriation
23 shall take into consideration an administration cost of not more than five percent (5%),
24 subject to periodic review and appropriate recommendation for increase, whenever
25 necessary. For this purpose, the DSWD shall issue the appropriate guidelines on the
26 utilization and management of the administration cost.

27 **Sec. 19. *Separability Clause.*** - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is
28 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
29 shall remain in full force and effect.

1 **Sec. 20. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other
2 issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed
3 or modified accordingly.

4 **Sec. 21. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6 *Approved,*