

DSWD Social Amelioration Program/Emergency Subsidy Program (As of August 2020)

The President issued Proclamation No. 922 s. 2020 declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the country. Thereafter, the Interagency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), as per its Resolution No. 11 s. 2020, raised the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) threat to the highest alert level (Code Red Sublevel 2) due to the evidence of sustained community transmission of the disease. Correspondingly, the President approved the IATF-EID recommendation to declare a community quarantine in the National Capital Region on 15 March 2020. Following that, the President issued Proclamation No. 929 s. 2020 declaring a State of Calamity throughout the country and imposing a community quarantine in the entire Luzon.

For that reason, the imposition of a community quarantine and stringent social distancing measures caused restriction in the mobility of people, suspension of operations or even closure of business establishments, implementation of alternative work arrangements in the government and private offices, as well as stoppage of public transportation. Local government units (LGUs) outside of Luzon also declared local community quarantine. These developments resulted in the severe disruption of economic activities all over the country and affected the means of livelihood and subsistence of low-income households, most especially senior citizens, pregnant and lactating women, solo parents, overseas Filipinos, persons with disability, indigenous peoples, underprivileged and homeless families, and informal economy workers.

In view thereof, Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act of 2020 was passed to adopt an intensified government response which covers full assistance for LGUs and mobilizes necessary resources to undertake urgent and appropriate measures to curtail the effects of the community quarantine declarations on the economic, physical and psychosocial wellbeing of the most affected citizens. Thus, the DSWD has been mandated to implement social amelioration measures to provide subsidy for basic necessities and ways for the recovery of most affected families and individuals. Social amelioration measures of the DSWD include the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS), Augmentation of Food and Non-Food Items, Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens and Supplementary Feeding Program.

At the core of its social amelioration measures, the DSWD implements the Emergency Subsidy Program (ESP). The ESP shall be provided – through various national and local government social amelioration programs – to around 18 million family beneficiaries as defined in Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 s. 2020. The subsidy amounts from a minimum of Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) to a maximum of Eight Thousand Pesos (PhP8,000.00) a month, for two (2) months, in both cash and kind, to provide for basic needs such as food, medicine and toiletries.

Subsidy Amount per Region

Region	Daily Minimum Wage (In Php)	Subsidy Amount (In Php)
NCR	537.00	8,000.00
CAR	350.00	5,500.00
I	340.00	5,500.00
II	370.00	5,500.00
III	420.00	6,500.00
IV-A	400.00	6,500.00
MIMAROPA	320.00	5,000.00
V	310.00	5,000.00
VI	395.00	6,000.00
VII	404.00	6,000.00
VIII	315.00	5,000.00
IX	316.00	5,000.00
X	365.00	6,000.00
XI	396.00	6,000.00
XII	326.00	5,000.00
Caraga	320.00	5,000.00
BARMM	325.00	5,000.00

Computation is based on the prevailing regional minimum wage rates, taking into account the subsidy amount given under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) cash grants and rice subsidy, which is estimated at PhP2,150.00 per month per family. Thus, the 4Ps cash grants and rice subsidy are augmented to reach the mandated ESP subsidy of PhP5,000.00 to PhP8,000.00.

Along the 1st tranche DSWD SAP/ESP implementation, a total amount of Php99,982,104,250.00 was disbursed through the payment of emergency cash subsidy to a total of 17,695,811 beneficiaries, as follows:

- 13,310,259 low-income non-4Ps families, in the total amount of Php80,623,755,750.00;
- 4,287,420 4Ps household beneficiaries, in the total amount of Php18,573,292,500.00; and,
- 98,132 drivers of the Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) and Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) in NCR, in the total amount of Php785,056,000.00.

In line with the 2nd tranche SAP implementation, a total amount of Php46,449,503,600.00 was disbursed for 7,333,891 beneficiaries, as follows:

- 5,946,887 non-4Ps families, in the total amount of Php39,445,579,000.00; and,
- 1,387,004 4Ps households in the total amount of Php7,003,924,600.00.

During the 1st tranche SAP implementation, there were 1,075,970 beneficiaries who received emergency cash subsidy twice. Thus, these beneficiaries were considered

to have already been provided with two (2) tranches of said subsidy, but only utilizing the 1st tranche budget.

The payout of SAP emergency cash subsidy for waitlisted low-income non-4Ps families commenced in Makati City (NCR) on July 5, 2020, Benguet (CAR) on June 16, 2020, Abra (CAR) on June 27, 2020, La Union (Region I) on June 21, 2020, Ilocos Norte (Region I) on June 24, 2020, Ilocos Sur (Region I) on June 24, 2020, Pangasinan (Region I) on June 27, 2020, Pampanga (Region III) on June 22, 2020, Bulacan (Region III) on June 23, 2020, Tarlac (Region III) on July 3, 2020, Batangas (Region IV-A) on July 3, 2020, Capiz (Region VI) on July 4, 2020, Cebu (Region VII) on July 5, 2020, Eastern Samar (Region VIII) on July 5, 2020, Davao City (Region XI) on July 5, 2020 and South Cotabato (Region XII) on July 2, 2020.

To date, a total amount of Php21,515,659,000.00 was disbursed for 3,246,325 waitlisted (left-out) low-income non-4Ps families nationwide. Likewise, 1,758,441 waitlisted (left-out) low-income non-4Ps families in Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) areas received their 2nd tranche emergency cash subsidy, in the total amount of Php12,125,957,500.00.

Moreover, a total amount of Php1,062,875,000.00 was disbursed for the emergency cash subsidy of 150,695 TNVS/PUV drivers nationwide. A total amount of Php203,094,000.00 was further disbursed for 33,336 TNVS/PUV drivers in ECQ areas.