

F A Q S

Frequently Asked Questions on the implementation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

Is Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) a dole-out program?

4Ps is NOT a “dole-out” program. The transfer of cash grant to the beneficiaries under the program is **conditional**, which means beneficiaries must comply with program conditions related to increasing human capital in order to continue receiving 4Ps grants.

The 4Ps grants serve specific objectives of keeping the children healthy and in school. A compliance verification system is in place and co-implemented with schools and health centers nationwide to monitor if the children are indeed attending school and taking up the necessary preventive health services.

Does 4Ps make the poor lazy and discouraged to find work since it gives them cash grants?

The two 4Ps impact evaluations conducted on 2012 and 2014 have shown that there are more working adult members of household beneficiaries of the program compared to non-beneficiaries, and that more of them are looking for additional work. This is consistent with the international evidence in other conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs that giving cash transfers does not reduce labor force participation of the poor.

We should be conscious of the possible prejudice in thinking that the poor are poor because they are lazy to find and do actual work. Mostly, the poor are not able to go school (only 10% of 4Ps adult members are high school graduates), that is why their level of productivity is low and they could not get good-paying, long-term jobs.

Why can't just 4Ps provide livelihood projects instead of cash grants?

As provided in the RA 11310, qualified-household beneficiaries are prioritized to avail the modalities of interventions from the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) or other similar programs offered by other government agencies or accredited private institutions.

DSWD through SLP has already provided employment facilitation or livelihood grants to some 1.897 million (as of December 2019) 4Ps beneficiaries.

Livelihood projects do not increase the human capital of the children, which is the main thrust of 4Ps. That is why the program conditions revolve around enabling children of poor families to get more years of education and get all the basic preventive health services. Even if all members of the program receive livelihood assistance, it is not guaranteed that it will get them out of poverty. Operating a business or livelihood regardless of size entails a lot of financial risks.

Poor entrepreneurs are at a greater disadvantage in dealing with risk of business loss because they do not have much capital or savings in the first place.

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Does 4Ps encourage the poor to conceive more children?

The education grant of the program can only be given to the listed monitored child/children of a household. There is only a maximum of 3 children per household that can be monitored by the program.

Moreover, based on the results of the 4Ps impact evaluation, the average family size of both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries is 7 members. This is consistent with the findings from impact evaluation of other countries' CCT programs that show the continuous receipt of cash transfers does not induce higher fertility rate.

Why are many poor families not in 4Ps while some not-so-poor families are enrolled in it?

The current household beneficiaries were identified through the use of a poverty targeting system called the Listahanan. Through the data generated, the system calculates the estimated annual per capita income of the households through the use of Proxy Means Test (PMT). The PMT yields estimates of household income. Because these are only estimates, it is only accurate in classifying who the poor and non-poor are to a certain degree, just like the PMTs used in CCT programs of other countries. As such, it may misclassify some as poor (inclusion error) and non-poor (exclusion error).

4Ps is aware of these inclusion and exclusion errors that is why it established a grievance redress system to address related complaints. As of June 2019, it has already removed 30,536 households that were found to be non-poor.

Other reason for a poor household to not be included in the program is that they neither have children aged 0 – 14 years old or pregnant member at the time of Listahanan 1 household assessment. The program caters only to poor households that now have children 0 – 18 years old as a result of the extension of education grants to children 15 – 18 years old.

How does 4Ps reduce poverty?

4Ps aims to reduce poverty through investing in human capital which is a long-term process.

The program intends to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through helping poor families get out of poverty by improving their social and economic well-being. The cash grant given by the program on a bi-monthly basis aims to help the beneficiaries meet their immediate needs especially on health and education expenses of the household.

Through investment in education and health of the children of poor families, 4Ps hopes to see the next generation be comprised of more children who have graduated in school and have kept themselves healthy.