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Department of Social Welfare and Development

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Guidelines on Strengthening Support Services and Interventions (SSI)
Implementation for Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) Beneficiaries

I. Rationale

The Pantawid-MCCT Program SSI is designed to uplift the socio-economic status of the MCCT beneficiaries. The services included are cash-for-work (CFW), micro-enterprise/ livelihood assistance, income-generating projects (IGPs), MCCT feeding program, family camp and other SSI. Towards this end, it shall develop the capacities and expand the opportunities for the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors as part of the overall mission and mandate of the Department.

The MCCT beneficiaries are the homeless street families (HSF), indigenous people (IP) families and vulnerable families who are in need of special protection (FNSP). They are the families living in communities with marginalized population, physically and socio-economically separated from the mainstream society and characterized by isolation due to either distance, weather conditions, terrain, geography or transportation difficulties or of all that was mentioned. In terms of socio-economic factors, they are families in communities with high incidence of poverty and they are vulnerable communities or communities recovering from a situation of either natural or human-induced disaster such crises like typhoon, earthquake and other calamities; armed-conflict, putting them socially and politically at a disadvantage.

Further, SSI shall prepare the MCCT beneficiaries in the eventual mainstreaming to the regular CCT. It shall also strengthen the participation of MCCT beneficiaries in the identification of appropriate services based on their needs and maximize their contributions to their development process by involving them directly in community endeavors like protection and preservation of natural resources.

Now therefore, this set of guidelines will provide clarification and guidance on strengthening the implementation of MCCT SSI to benefit the HSF, IP and FNSP beneficiaries.

II. Description

The SSI covers a menu of protective services for the marginalized and disadvantaged families of the MCCT program particularly the HSF, IP and FNSP beneficiaries to improve their situations along health, sanitation education, livelihood, capability building and other interventions that may complement to improve their quality of life.

SSI shall form part of the overall implementation of the MCCT Program to strengthen the assistance provided and respond to the needs of the MCCT beneficiaries. The MCCT beneficiaries refer to the HSF (including Itinerant IPs), IPs in Geographically-Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) as well as the FNSP. Adopting the existing programs of the Department to complement the MCCT implementation will maximize the opportunities for the beneficiaries of the program.

III. Objectives

1. To identify and provide guidance on the list of options of SSI to be provided for HSF and IP (Itinerant IPs, IPs in GIDAs/ Indigenous Cultural Communities - ICCs)
2. To expand the coverage of SSI to FNSP.
3. To strengthen provision of support services and intervention to MCCT beneficiaries to fast track their eventual mainstreaming into the regular CCT.
4. To strengthen the participation of MCCT beneficiaries in the implementation of SSI by involving them directly to maximize their contribution in the development process
5. To strengthen other community development projects in the areas of education, livelihood, training, security and protection of natural resources.

IV. Target Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries are HSF (including Itinerant IPs) and IPs in GIDAs. As defined in MCs 9 and 19 series of 2014, the HSF shall refer to families residing in urban and urbanizable areas whose income or combined household income cannot afford for housing facilities.

The IPs in GIDAs are the politically-isolated families living in communities with marginalized population and physically and socio-economically separated from the mainstream society characterized by isolation due to distance, weather conditions, transportation difficulties. In terms of socio-economic factors, they are the IP families in communities with high incidence of poverty which are, either part of vulnerable communities in or recovering from situation of crisis or armed conflict or of all that was mentioned.

Other beneficiaries of the MCCT shall also be included, particularly the FNSP. Based on MC 2 Series of 2015, FNSP shall refer to families with insufficient income and income-earning opportunities. They are in need of special protective interventions including basic specialized services by reason of their difficult circumstances. FNSP includes disaster stricken families, indigenous people not found in GIDA (itinerant IP) and vulnerable groups under hazardous and disabling working conditions.

V. Scope and Coverage

The SSI shall aim to provide more opportunities to the beneficiaries to strengthen the implementation of MCCT to facilitate improvement in their socio-economic situations through acquisition of the existing programs and services of the Department including but not limited to Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), CFW and Family Camp.

For the MCCT beneficiaries, there shall be some modifications on the above-stated project schemes to meet the needs of the MCCT beneficiaries through simple procedures, requirements and modalities. The objective is to make these projects more inclusive, adoptive and responsive at the same time ensuring the full participation of MCCT beneficiaries in the development process.

The SSI shall include but shall not be limited to the following:

1. Cash-for-Work (CFW)

This shall refer to a short-term intervention to provide temporary employment to MCCT beneficiaries by participating in or undertaking preparedness, relief, rehabilitation or risk reduction projects in their communities or in evacuation centers. The provision of CFW to be carried out on MCCT shall not be limited to disaster-related community projects but shall also include identified community development activities that may be deemed necessary by the community to respond to the development needs of the MCCT beneficiaries. Its beneficiaries therefore shall include the HSF and the IPs in GIDAs under the Pantawid - MCCT Program.

Projects under the scheme of CFW shall have a maximum of 90 days with payment rate of 75% of the prevailing regional minimum wage. Implementation details shall be in reference to Administrative Order (AO) 15 Series of 2008.

2. MCCT Livelihood Assistance

The MCCT livelihood assistance is intended to increase the economic activities of the MCCT beneficiaries. This primarily includes provision of seed capital for small income generating projects. Beneficiaries who need skills training may avail of the grants for skills training and education to enhance their skill proficiency and capability to operate micro-enterprises. Skills training may be in the form of workshop, modular concept and others to enhance the capacities of the MCCT beneficiaries to improve livelihood of the family.

3. MCCT Grassroots Organizing Activities

The grassroots organizing activities aim to strengthen community participation of MCCT Beneficiaries in the conduct of community development activities. These shall include value formation training, volunteers development and other related organizing activities aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of parent leaders in facilitating community development activities. This also include community feeding programs targeting the 3 to 5 years old MCCT children that

were not covered by the regular supplemental feeding program of the Department. The food supplementation will be in a form of hot meals to be served during snack and meal time for 3-5 years old children of MCCT beneficiaries.

4. **Family Camp**

The Family Camp is a three-day activity designed to help families gain positive life interaction patterns, increase communication and identify family issues and family values geared towards healthy family life, including family resource management and community participation. The conduct of the Family Camp shall follow existing procedures cited in MC 26 Series of 2012 - Implementing Procedures in the Conduct of Family Camp as Part of Pilot Implementation of MCCT Program.

5. **Rent Subsidy for HSF and IP Itinerant beneficiaries**

Provided to HSF including IP itinerants who do not want to return to their places of origin or who do not have provinces to go back to but wish to move out of the streets and get into a stable and decent abode, rent subsidy shall be offered based on assessment and prevailing rate for a maximum period of 12 months.

General Provisions

1. SSI activities included in the above shall be charged against the Pantawid MCCT fund, subject to availability.
2. Implementation of SSI shall be conducted based on the procedural mechanics established in the implementation for MCCT. The requirements and guidelines of the existing programs of the Department can be adopted with some modifications to simplify and fast track the process of implementation of SSI for the beneficiaries of MCCT.
3. The DSWD Field Offices (FOs) – Regional Program Management Offices (RPMOs) shall facilitate implementation of SSI for MCCT beneficiaries. The Regional Director (RD) shall have the main responsibility in the overall implementation of the SSI.
4. Strong coordination and participation of the program staff from the Protective Services Units (PSUs), (DRU) Disaster-Risk Unit, SLP-RPMOs and KC-NCDDP-RPMOs (Tatsulo Guidelines – Internal Convergence) shall be observed in the implementation of the SSI for MCCT beneficiaries.
5. Close coordination and collaboration with the LGUs shall be facilitated in the implementation of SSI projects. Involvement of LGUs will be based on the

existing guidelines of the program, e.g. profiling of the beneficiaries, needs assessment, certification of eligibility and monitoring and evaluation.

6. Active MCCT beneficiaries can avail each of the projects under SSI and guidelines of the existing program of the Department shall be adopted if applicable to the MCCT conditions and situations.
7. Project proposals shall be prepared and submitted by the community facilitators in partnership with the project staff of SLP, PSU and DRU. This shall be reviewed by the MCCT focal and recommended by the Regional Program Coordinator (RPC) and approved by the RD.
8. The FOs may conduct monthly monitoring visits to MCCT sites or offices to determine and assess the implementation of SSI in terms of project plans, targets and key deliverables as basis for the provision of technical assistance and reporting of accomplishments.
9. MCCT beneficiaries may be referred to other appropriate offices and agencies for the provision of other support services.
10. MC 18 Series of 2012 – Guidelines on Internal Convergence on DSWD Core Social Protection Programs shall be observed with the Provincial Action Team (PAT) and Municipal Action Team (MAT) leaders to oversee the overall implementation of SSI as well as other programs of the Department in the locality.

VI. Effectivity

This MC shall take effect immediately and copies of this circular shall be disseminated to all concerned Offices, Bureaus and Services (OBSUs) at the DSWD Central Office (CO) and FOs.

This MC has been issued this 6/12 of June shall take effect immediately.


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