

**9. What are the advantages of becoming a registered, licensed, and accredited SWDA?**

The DSWD would provide benefits and incentives to registered, licensed, and accredited Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs) in recognition of their importance and invaluable contribution to social welfare and development. The following are the **benefits and privileges** for registered (R), licensed (L), and accredited (A) SWDAs:

| Benefits and Privileges  | R | L | A |
|--|---|---|---|
| Inclusion in the DSWD's Registry of SWDA   | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Technical assistance in the areas of capability building, packaging of the project proposal, provision of program materials and skills enhancement to strengthen program and service implementation  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| DSWD's endorsement to the DOF for duty- and tax-exempt importation of foreign donations subject to compliance with the prescribed requirements;  |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| Resource augmentation for program implementation, subject to compliance with the requirements as may be established by the DSWD;   |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| Resource augmentation for program implementation, subject to compliance with the requirements as may be established by the DSWD  |   | ✓ | ✓ |
| Endorsement to the DOF for donee-institution status and other relevant tax incentives as provided by law   |   |   | ✓ |
| Endorsement for resource augmentation or other assistance from any government agencies or private donors subject to compliance to set requirements and criteria of the government  |   |   | ✓ |
| A discount shall be granted on the consumption of electricity, water and telephone service to the residential care, and community center-based facilities that are operated exclusively for the beneficiaries subject to set requirements and discretion of the utility service providers. |   |   | ✓ |

| Benefits and Privileges   | R | L | A |
|---|---|---|---|
| At least a ten percent (10%) discount from concerned government agencies and private establishments for the processing of documents of intended beneficiaries, such as birth registration, passport, and safety certificates, among others. |   |   | ✓ |
| Assistance in establishing linkages with local, national, and international organizations and networks for the generation and sharing of resources  |   |   | ✓ |
| Nomination of board members, employees, or volunteer workers to participate as presenters or resource speakers in local or foreign training or conferences  |   |   | ✓ |
| Plaque of recognition   |   |   | ✓ |
| Cash incentives   |   |   | ✓ |
| Endorsement of the SWA as an ideal agency for research of the SWA's operations and other activities such as training and conduct of Lakbay Aral programs  |   |   | ✓ |
| Other benefits and privileges deemed appropriate by the DSWD  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |



*“Basta lisensyado, siguradong lehitimo.  
Benepisyaryo ay tiyak na protektado.”*

DSWD  
STANDARDS BUREAU  
2022



# PROPOSED SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (SWDAs) BILL

*Frequently Asked Questions*

**1. What is the current system of the DSWD in regulating the social welfare and development agencies (SWDAs)?**



The DSWD issued **Memorandum Circular No. 17 series of 2018**, entitled: “Revised Guidelines Governing the Registration, Licensing of Social Welfare and Development (SWD) Agencies and Accreditation of SWD Programs and Services”, which establishes the DSWD requirements, procedures, and policies on the registration and licensing of social welfare and development agencies and the accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services.

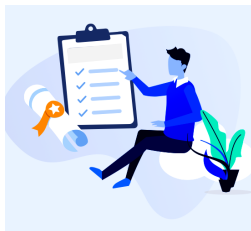
It provides a mechanism for assessing and providing benefits and incentives to partner-SWDAs in providing quality, efficient and effective programs and services to its target clientele. However, to increase accountability and transparency, and promote professionalism among SWDAs, the Department needs to strengthen its regulating functions by imposing penalties on unregistered and fly-by-night SWDAs.

**2. What is the current Legal Basis that Supports the DSWD regulations?**

- **Republic Act (RA) No. 10847 of 2016** that amended Sections 23, 26, and 29 of RA 4373 – *An Act Lowering The Age Requirement for Applicants taking the Board Examination for Social Workers, Providing for Continuing Social Work Education, and Upgrading the Sundry Provisions Relative to the Practice of Social Work*
- **Republic Act No. 4373 of 1965** – *An Act to Regulate the Practice of Social Work and the Operation of Social Work Agencies in the P hilippines and for Other Purposes*
- **Republic Act No. 5416 of 1968** – *Social Welfare Act of 1968*
- **Executive Order 292** – *Administrative Code of 1987*
- **Presidential Decree 603** – *The Child and Youth Welfare Code as amended*
- **Executive Order 221 Series of 2003** – *Amending Executive Order No. 15 series of 1998, entitled Redirecting the Functions and Operations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.*

**3. What are the Salient Features of the Bill?**

- Strengthens the DSWD’s regulatory functions in relation to Sec. 23 (Registration of Social Work Agencies) of RA 4373 or the “Social Work Law”
- Establishes a comprehensive system for registration and licensing of SWDAs and accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services;



- Grants benefits and incentives to licensed and accredited SWDAs in recognition of their importance and invaluable contribution in social welfare and development;
- It reinforces the regulatory functions of the DSWD over the public and private individuals, agencies and organizations engaged in social welfare and development activities with the end view of ensuring the provision of the highest quality of service possible to target clientele.
- It provides a mechanism for sanctions in case of non-compliance with standards and procedures set by the DSWD.
- Grants benefits and incentives to registered, licensed, and accredited SWDAs in recognition of their importance and invaluable contribution to social welfare and development.

**4. Who is covered by this proposed bill?**

It covers the Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs) a non-stock, non-profit corporation operating in the Philippines, both public and private, with the primary purpose of implementing or intending to implement social welfare and development programs and services for the clients as defined in the proposed bill. Organizations established by a treaty or other instruments governed by international law or possessing their own international legal personality are not covered.



There are two types of SWDA, namely:

**4.1 Social Welfare Agency (SWA)** – refers to a private SWDA that directly engages in SWD programs and services whether Center-based and/or Community based using any methods of social work, whether casework, group work, or community organizing. An SWA may be classified into:

- **Center-based** – refers to the SWD programs and services rendered in a physical structure or facility and is further classified as Residential and Non-Residential; and
- **Community-based** – refers to the provision of programs and services to the target clientele while they remain in their homes and/or with their families;

**4.2 Auxiliary SWDA** – refers to a private SWDA which provides SWD programs and services to clients indirectly through a partnership with other organizations such as the provision of funds and/or in-kind and/or capacitating staff of other SWAs through training, research, and advocacy. It is classified as a People’s Organization providing programs and services beyond its members, Resource Agency, and Social Welfare and Development Network.

**5. How can the SWDAs apply for registration, licensing and accreditation?**

- **REGISTRATION** - Any private agency or organization that intends to engage in SWD activities shall apply for registration with the DSWD not later than six (6) months from registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the

agency that gives juridical personality to an agency to operate in the Philippines. *Provided*, before any agency or organization shall be registered by the DSWD, the applicant must be engaged mainly or generally in social welfare and development activities.

- **LICENSING** - All registered private SWDAs, and public SWDAs, which are not yet in operation upon registration, shall apply for a license to operate within one (1) year after the issuance of a Certificate of Registration. *Provided*, those already engaged in the implementation of SWD programs and services must apply simultaneously the registration and license to operate.
- **ACCREDITATION** – All social welfare and development programs and services of licensed SWAs and public SWDA shall be accredited by the DSWD not later than three (3) years after the issuance of a license to operate. A SWA must comply with the standards on accreditation set by the DSWD which shall develop the standards and accreditation tool for every SWD program and service in consultation with the internal and external stakeholders as a basis for accrediting the programs and services being implemented by a licensed SWA and public SWDA.

**6. Is there a fee for registration, licensing, and accreditation of SWDAs?**

**Yes, corresponding fees shall be charged to all private SWDAs** applying for new or renewal of registration, licensing, or accreditation which will be determined by the DSWD.

**7. Is there validity for registration, license to operate and accreditation Certificates?**

**Yes, the Certificates of Registration and License to Operate** shall be valid for **five (5) years** while the **Accreditation Certificate** shall be valid for **five (5) to seven (7) years** depending on the compliance of the SWDA with accreditation standards.

**8. Is there a penalty for unregistered SWDAs?**

**Yes, any persons, groups, or organizations that provide direct or indirect social welfare and development programs and services without the valid Certificate of Registration or Certificate of Registration and License to Operate issued by the DSWD shall be penalized with a fine of not less than **Php100,000.00** but not more than **Php500,000.00** and/or imprisonment ranging from one (1) to three (3) years** at the discretion of the court. The penalties shall be without prejudice to the filing of a criminal case against the offended including the corresponding seizure of equipment, instruments, and other facilities of the SWDA.

