

Cordillera Regional Development Council urges LGUs to adopt, maintain Group Enrollment Program

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In order to improve health care access in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC-CAR) recently passed a resolution endorsing the sustainability of the PhilHealth Group Enrollment Program (GEP) in the region. The RDC-CAR, chaired by Apayao Governor Elias C. Bulut Jr., urged all Local Government Units (LGUs) in CAR to adopt and implement the Program, particularly for the benefit of marginalized communities.



The PhilHealth Regional Office-CAR (PRO-CAR) advocated for the adoption of the GEP, which aims to facilitate the mass enrollment of informal economy workers to provide them with social health insurance coverage. PRO-CAR Regional Vice President Dominga A. Gadgad actively collaborated with the Regional Social Development Committee of the RDC, and lobbied for partnerships to ensure the provision of financial risk protection for the informal sector.

The GEP, which is attuned to the goals of the Universal Health Care Act and the Cordillera Regional Development Plan for 2023-2028, seeks to expand PhilHealth membership in the region. Targeted beneficiaries under the Program include contract of services, job order and project-based



personnel, members of micro-finance institutions and other organized groups, self-earning individuals, professional practitioners, barangay health workers and volunteers including students who have turned 21 years old.

To implement the Program, the RDC-CAR Social Development Committee (RSDC) resolved that all LGUs should allocate funds in their locality for the purpose. In 2022, PhilHealth-CAR enrolled 16,352 individuals under the GEP, of which 13,916 were able to avail of PhilHealth benefits amounting to P79.9 million.

PRO-CAR is a member of the RSDC, where social programs from member line agencies of the government are presented, deliberated and approved for enactment in the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province and the City of Baguio. These programs aim to improve the socio-economic conditions of Cordillerans in this mountainous region.

The adoption and implementation of the PhilHealth Group Enrollment Program in the Cordillera Region is a significant step towards achieving the region's goal of providing accessible and affordable health care to its constituents, especially those in underserved and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. XXX