

Welfare for Persons with Disabilities in Japan

2007

Japan International Cooperation Agency
Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

Welfare for Persons with disabilities in Japan

-Introduction-

This is the second edition of the “Welfare for Persons with Disabilities in Japan - 2004” which published by Japan International Cooperation Agency and Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The new edition aims to provide the latest information including the Independent Living Support Act which has been enforced since 2005 and has resulted in some changes to the welfare for persons with disabilities in Japan. As the new changes are introduced here, please understand that the tentative translations are being used for some terms.

We hope this edition will be used widely for those who need the latest information in the disability field in Japan.

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Chapter 1 Actual Status of Persons with Disabilities in Japan

1. Total Number of Persons with Disabilities in Japan

	Total	Persons living at home	Persons living in institutions
Persons with physical disabilities	3,516,000 (28)	3,327,000 (27)	189,000 (2)
Under 18 years of age	90,000	82,000	8,000
18 years of age or older	3,426,000	3,245,000	181,000
Persons with intellectual disabilities	459,000 (4)	329,000 (3)	130,000 (1)
Under 18 years of age	103,000	94,000	9,000
18 years of age or older	342,000	221,000	121,000
Age unknown	14,000	14,000	0
Persons with mental disabilities	2,584,000 (21)	2,239,000 (18)	345,000 (3)
Under the age of 20 years)	142,000	139,000	3,000
20 years of age or older	2,436,000	2,095,000	341,000
Age unknown	6,000	5,000	1,000
Total	6,559,000 (53)	5,895,000 (48)	664,000 (6)

Notes:

1. The figures in parentheses are the numbers of persons out of a population of 1,000 (based on the Population Census in 2000).
2. The number of persons with mental disabilities excludes patients with mental retardation from persons with Mental and Behavioral Disorders in ICD-10 Chapter V, and includes patients with epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease. Outpatients of "Patient Survey" are regarded as "persons living at home", and hospitalized patients as "persons living in institutions".
(ICD-10 is the International Statistical Classification of Disease and Related Health Problems **Tenth** Revision published by World Health Organization (WHO))

Sources:

"Persons with physical disabilities"

- (1) Persons living at home: "Survey on Actual Status of Children/Persons with Physical Disabilities" (2001) Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

(2) Persons living in institutions: "Survey of Social Welfare Institutions" (2000) and others, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

"Persons with intellectual disabilities"

- Persons living at home: "Comprehensive Survey on Children/Persons with Intellectual Disabilities" (2000) Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
- Persons living in institutions: "Survey on Social Welfare Institutions" (2000) and others, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

"Persons with mental disabilities"

- Persons living at home: "Patient Survey" (2002) Department of Health and Welfare for Persons with Disabilities, Social Welfare and the War Victim Relief Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
- Persons living in institutions: "Patient Survey" (2002) Department of Health and Welfare for Persons with Disabilities, Social Welfare and the War Victim Relief Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

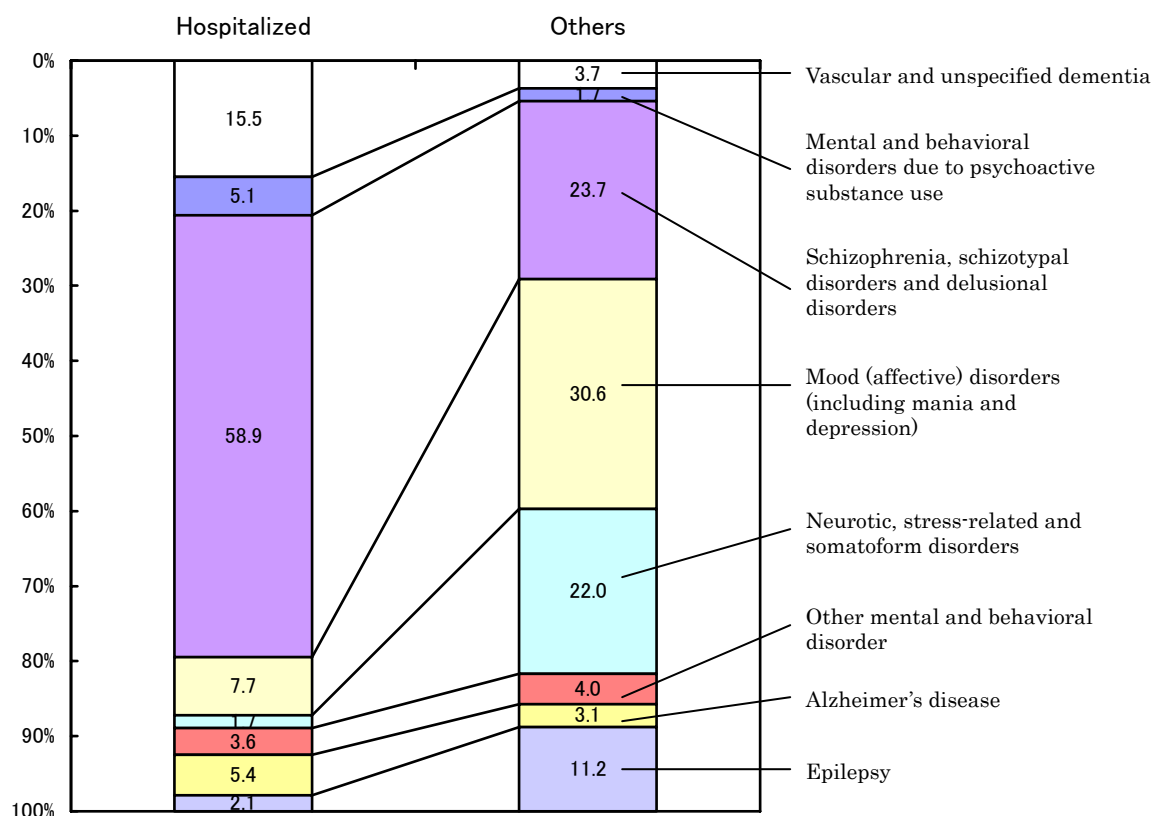
2. Number of Persons with Physical Disabilities by Type and Degree of Disabilities

	Total	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade unknown
Total	3,245,000 (100.0%)	850,000 (26.2%)	614,000 (18.9%)	602,000 (18.6%)	660,000 (20.3%)	260,000 (8.0%)	216,000 (6.7%)	45,000 (1.4%)
Visual impairment	301,000 (100.0%)	105,000 (34.9%)	74,000 (24.6%)	27,000 (9.0%)	28,000 (9.3%)	34,000 (11.3%)	32,000 (10.6%)	1,000 (0.3%)
Hearing/speech impairment	346,000 (100.0%)	1,000 (0.3%)	88,000 (25.4%)	70,000 (20.2%)	64,000 (18.5%)	5,000 (1.4%)	101,000 (29.2%)	17,000 (4.9%)
Physical disorders	1,749,000 (100.0%)	243,000 (13.9%)	445,000 (25.4%)	341,000 (19.5%)	397,000 (22.7%)	221,000 (12.6%)	83,000 (4.7%)	19,000 (1.1%)
Internal disorders	849,000 (100.0%)	501,000 (59.0%)	6,000 (0.7%)	165,000 (19.4%)	170,000 (20.0%)	– (–)	– (–)	7,000 (0.8%)
Multiple disabilities (double count)	175,000 (100.0%)	88,000 (50.3%)	47,000 (26.9%)	22,000 (12.6%)	8,000 (4.6%)	4,000 (2.3%)	1,000 (0.6%)	6,000 (3.4%)

3. Number of Children/Persons with Intellectual Disabilities by Degree of Disabilities

	Total	Profound	Severe	Moderate	Mild	Degree unknown
Total	329,200 (100.0%)	45,500 (13.8%)	92,600 (28.1%)	77,600 (23.6%)	73,200 (22.2%)	40,300 (12.2%)
Children with intellectual disabilities (under 18 years of age)	93,600 (100.0%)	17,800 (19.1%)	30,700 (32.8%)	17,800 (19.1%)	18,300 (19.5%)	9,000 (9.6%)
Persons with intellectual disabilities (18 years of age or older)	221,200 (100.0%)	26,700 (12.1%)	59,700 (27.0%)	57,400 (25.9%)	52,100 (23.6%)	25,300 (11.4%)
Age unknown	14,400 (100.0%)	1,000 (6.9%)	2,200 (15.3%)	2,400 (16.7%)	2,800 (19.4%)	6,000 (41.7%)

4. Percentage of Persons with Mental Disabilities by Types of Mental Disorders



Note: The number of persons with mental disabilities is that of persons of mental disorders and others. Source: Estimate based on Patient Survey (2002)

Chapter 2 Promotion of Measures for Persons with Disabilities

1. Comprehensive Approach

The measures for persons with disabilities in Japan, in accordance with the Fundamental Law for Disabled Persons, aim to provide services which meet the needs of persons with disabilities in welfare, medical care, pension, education, employment and other areas and also to promote a barrier-free society in terms of both hardware and software including access to buildings, transportation and information.

Specific legislations and systems are established in each area and therefore dispersed to corresponding ministries. To promote effective and comprehensive measures, relevant ministries maintain close cooperation with each other. The Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities was set up in the Cabinet Office, headed by the Prime Minister as Director with all relevant ministers as its members and thus enabling the government to take a unified approach in promoting measures for persons with disabilities.

2. Fundamental Law for Disabled Persons

“Fundamental Law for Countermeasures for Mentally and Physically Handicapped Persons” enacted in 1970 was amended largely in 1993 and renamed to “Fundamental Law for Disabled Persons”. This law aims to promote the independence and participation of persons with disabilities in society, economy, culture and all other spheres.

The law was partially amended again in June 2004; ① the concept of anti-discrimination on the basis of disabilities is explicitly spelled out, ② “Disabled Persons’ Day (9 December)” is expanded to “Disabled Persons’ Week (3 – 9 December)”, ③ prefectural and municipal governments are obliged to establish “Prefectural/Municipal Government Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities” ④ provisions concerning the promotion of mutual understanding between students with disabilities and students without disabilities in education and the subsidies to places for work activities and vocational training facilities for persons with disabilities in a community are added, ⑤ a provision concerning the promotion of

research and development on intractable diseases causing disability and others is added, and ⑥ “Central Council on Promotion of the Measures for Persons with Disabilities” is established in the Cabinet Office to give opinions to the Prime Minister regarding establishment of Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities.

3. Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities

Japanese government is required, by the Fundamental Law for Disabled Persons, to make a basic plan regarding measures for persons with disabilities in order to comprehensively and systematically promote measures for welfare of persons with disabilities and measures for prevention of disabilities. “Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities” was resolved at the Cabinet Meeting on 24 December 2002.

“Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities” covers a period of ten years from fiscal year of 2003 through 2012. It succeeds the concept of “normalization” and “rehabilitation” from the former basic plan (1993-2002) and also adopts the philosophy of “inclusive society” where every citizen respects personality and individuality and supports each other. Under these philosophies, the Basic Plan aims to realize an inclusive society where human rights of persons with disabilities are respected as equal members of society, and persons with disabilities participate in society by making their own decisions and self-determination and share the responsibilities as a member of society.

Based on the “Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities”, the “Five-Year Plan for Implementation of Priority Measures” was approved by the Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities on the same day as the Basic Plan. The Five-Year Plan covers the period of first five years of the Basic Plan from fiscal year of 2003 through 2007 and defines concrete numerical targets to be achieved in the implementation of priority measures during this period.

4. Major Government Measures for Persons with Disabilities

Ministries	Areas	Measures
Cabinet Office	General coordination	Administration of the Headquarters for Promoting Measures for Persons with Disabilities, awareness raising and public relations (Disabled Persons' Week, commemorative gatherings, regional conferences to promote measures for persons with disabilities, programs

		to increase understanding of persons with disabilities, etc), establishment of the Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities, etc
National Police Agency	Traffic safety measures	Installation of audible traffic signals for persons with visual disabilities, consideration concerning road and traffic safety such as exemption from no-parking rule, consultation on driving aptitude, etc
Ministry of Justice	National Bar Examination	Special establishment of human rights consultation offices, loan of law textbooks in Braille for examination
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Exchange with foreign countries	Technical cooperation in the fields related to rehabilitation of persons with disabilities
Ministry of Finance	Tax reduction/exemption (national tax)	Income Tax – tax deduction for persons with disabilities Corporate Tax – service of sheltered workshop Consumption Tax – items for persons with physical disabilities (specified by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare) Customs – equipment produced especially for persons with physical disabilities Inheritance Tax – tax deduction for persons with disabilities Gift Tax – property trust based on trust contract to support persons with profound disabilities
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	Special education, higher education etc	Special school for children with visual impairment, special school for children with hearing impairment, special school for children with disabilities, setting up special examination rooms, provision of personal assistants etc
	Entrusted development of medical and welfare equipment	
Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare	Welfare in general, pension, medical care etc	Welfare for persons with disabilities, rehabilitation measures, livelihood security, medical treatment, Welfare Annuity Insurance, National Pension, Health Insurance etc
	Employment measures, industrial	Subsidy to promote employment, public vocational training, Workers' Accident Compensation Insurance,

	accidents, assistance for persons with disabilities	Guarantor of identity to assist in finding a job and employment (note 1), loan for employment (note2)
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Conditioning of living environment	Preventive measures for industrial accidents in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, conditioning the living environment in farming, fishing, and mountain villages to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities, improving the eating habits and living environment of persons with visual disabilities, etc
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Promotion of development of welfare related equipment	Research and development of various welfare equipment, standardization of welfare equipment, etc
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport	Discount fare, public transport system measures	Discount fare for railroads, buses and aircrafts, discount fare for toll roads, improvement in transport system such as railroads and aircrafts (measures for persons with disabilities in wheelchairs, measures for persons with visual disabilities, etc)
	Housing measures, public institution measures, fee reduction/exemption	Provision of public housings for persons with physical disabilities, promotion of conditioning public buildings and roads to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities, moving into public housings with priority, special treatment for housing loans, discount fare for toll roads
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	Fee reduction/exemption, communication and broadcast	Reduction or exemption of Japan Broadcasting Corporation(NHK) subscription fees, free postage for Braille materials, reduced fee of installation and usage of telephone device for welfare, improving captioned broadcast and broadcast with audio description, sign language interpreter in broadcast of political views
	Tax reduction/exemption (local tax)	Residence Tax – tax deduction for persons with disabilities Business Tax – tax reduction/exemption in medical profession such as massage and acupuncture etc practiced by persons with severe disabilities Reduction/exemption of Automobile Tax, Light-weight Vehicle Tax and Automobile Acquisition Tax for cards and

		light vehicles, reduction/exemption from Real Estate Acquisition Tax and Business Tax
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Notes:

1. Guarantor of identity to assist in finding a job and employment: The Employment and Human Resources Development Organization of Japan guarantees the identity of persons with disabilities who get employed as full-time workers through Public Employment Security Office in case they do not have an appropriate surety guarantor of identity.
2. Loan for employment: The Employment and Human Resources Development Organization of Japan provides loans for necessary costs in finding a job and preparing for employment when necessary, to those who get employed as full-time workers through Public Employment Security Office.

5. Progress of Five-Year Plan for Implementation of Priority Measures (FY2003 – 2007)

Target objectives	Numeric target	Before the Plan (based on actual results)	FY2004 (based on the actual results)
Perinatal medical networks	47 prefectures	20 prefectures (at the end of FY2002)	30 prefectures (at the end of FY2004)
Participants in trainings of engineers who support persons with disabilities in utilizing IT	More than 10,000 persons	/	2,814 persons (at the end of FY2004)
Home helpers	Approx. 60,000 home helpers	42,722 home helpers (at the end of FY2002)	86,002 home helpers (at the end of FY2004)
Short-stay	For approx. 5,600 persons	For 4,126 persons (at the end of FY2002)	For 7,849 persons (at the end of FY2004)
Day services	Approx. 1,600 places	1,164 places (at the end of FY2002)	2,162 places (at the end of FY2004)
Non-residential service for children with disabilities (Day services for children with disabilities)	For approx. 11,000 children	529 places (at the end of FY2002)	For 12,949 children (at the end of FY2004)
Non-residential service for children/persons with severe physical and intellectual	Approx. 280 places	174 places (at the end of FY2002)	231 places (at the end of FY2004)

disabilities				
Group homes		For approx. 30,400 persons	For 18,870 persons (at the end of FY2002)	For 27,956 persons (at the end of FY2004)
Welfare homes		For approx. 5,200 persons	For 3,354 persons (at the end of FY2002)	For 4,172 persons (at the end of FY2004)
Non-residential sheltered workshops		For approx. 73,700 persons	For 52,249 persons (at the end of FY2002)	For 68,599 persons (at the end of FY2004)
Barrier-free houses in stock [by 2015]		20%	2.7% (FY1998)	3.4% (FY2003)
Removal of barriers from existing government facilities with service counters under the control of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport [by 2010]		100%	57% (at the end of FY2002)	65% (at the end of FY2004)
Improving accessibility in public transportation system which handle daily passengers of more than 5,000 on average [by 2005] (Removing different floor levels, installing Braille blocks and establishing toilets for persons with disabilities. 100% by 2010)	Railroad stations	Approx. 60%	39.0% (at the end of FY2002)	48.7% (at the end of FY2004)
	Bus terminals	Approx. 80%	71.1% (at the end of FY2002)	76.7% (at the end of FY2004)
	Passenger ship terminals	Approx. 70%	55.6% (at the end of FY2002)	77.8% (at the end of FY2004)
	Airport terminals	Approx. 70%	0% (at the end of FY2002)	31.8% (at the end of FY2004)
Removal of barriers from rolling stock [by 2005] (approx. 30% by 2010)		Approx. 20%	19.4% (at the end of FY2002)	27.9% (at the end of FY2004)

Lowered floor buses [by 2005] (100% by 2015)	Approx. 30%	13.8% (at the end of FY2002)	22.6% (at the end of FY2004)
Non-step buses [by 2005] (20-25% by 2010)	Approx. 10%	6.5% (at the end of FY2002)	12.0% (at the end of FY2004)
Accessibility improvement of passenger ships [by 2005] (Approx. 50% by 2010)	Approx. 25%	2.1% (at the end of FY2002)	7.0% (at the end of FY2004)
Accessibility improvement of aircrafts [by 2005] (Approx. 40% by 2010)	Approx. 35%	24.5% (at the end of FY2002)	40.7% (at the end of FY2004)
Welfare taxis [by 2005]	2,600 vehicles	3,276 vehicles (at the end of FY2002)	7,255 vehicles (at the end of FY2004)
Accessible main roads around major railroad stations	53%	17% (at the end of FY2002)	31% (at the end of FY2004)
Preservation of facilities for people in need of support to be hospitalized or stay at the time of disasters	240 facilities		Approx. 100 facilities (at the end of FY2004)
Emergency psychiatric medical system	47 prefectures	46 prefectures (at the end of FY2002)	47 prefectures (at the end of FY2004)
Community living support center for persons with mental disabilities	Approx. 470 centers	377 centers (at the end of FY2002)	471 centers (at the end of FY2004)
Home helpers for persons with mental disabilities (included in above mentioned "Home helpers")	Approx. 3,300 home helpers		2,547 home helpers (at the end of FY2004)
Group homes for persons with mental disabilities (included in above mentioned "Group homes")	For approx 12,200 persons	For 5,412 persons (at the end of FY2002)	For 7,259 persons (at the end of FY2004)
Welfare homes for persons with mental disabilities (included in above mentioned "Welfare homes")	For approx. 4,000 persons	For 2,634 persons (at the end of FY2002)	For 3,381 persons (at the end of FY2004)

Training facilities of daily living activities for persons with mental disabilities (supporting dormitories)		For approx. 6,700 persons	For 5,306 persons (at the end of FY2002)	For 5,912 persons (at the end of FY2004)
Non-residential sheltered workshops for persons with mental disabilities (included in above mentioned “Non-residential sheltered workshops”)		For approx. 7,200 persons	For 4,916 persons (at the end of FY2002)	For 6,651 persons (at the end of FY2004)
Securing of employment and jobs	Number of persons with disability who find jobs through Public Employment Security Office	30,000 persons	28,354 persons (FY2002)	For 35,871 persons (FY2004)
	Number of employed persons with disabilities in FY2008	600,000 persons		496,000 persons (FY2004)

Note: In the column of “Target Objectives”, the target years other than FY2007 are indicated in brackets. When targets are set in stages, the final target is also written in parenthesis.

Chapter 3 Certificate of Persons with Disabilities

1. Certificate of Persons with Physical Disabilities

(1) Purpose

Under the Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons, welfare measures are planned for persons with physical disabilities who are issued the Certificate of Persons with Physical Disability. In order to receive a certificate, an application must be submitted and the applicant must be recognized to have a physical disability in accordance with the law.

The certificate carries the type and degree of disability and entitles holders to various systems designated by the Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons. It also entitles holders to benefits outside the scope of this law, such as railroad fare reduction.

(2) Eligibility

Persons who have a following disability between grade one and grade six.

- ① Visual impairment
- ② Hearing impairment or impairment of balance function
- ③ Impairment of voice, speech or mastication function
- ④ Physical disorders
- ⑤ Functional disorders of internal organs (heart, kidney, respiratory organs, bladder, rectum and small intestine, functional disorder of immunity caused by HIV)

2. Certificate of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

(1) Purpose

The certificate is issued for the purpose of providing consistent guidance and counseling to children and adults with intellectual disabilities as well as making it easier for them to receive various benefits and support.

(2) Eligibility

Persons who are assessed to have intellectual disabilities at Child Guidance Center or Rehabilitation Consultation Center for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

(3) Degree of disabilities

The degree of disability is indicated in a certificate as follows; "A" for persons with severe intellectual disabilities and "B" for persons with moderate and mild intellectual disabilities.

① Children under 18 years of age with severe intellectual disabilities.

The degree of disability is described as (a) or (b) below and constant care is required on a daily basis.

(a) Children with an IQ of 35 or under, to whom one of the followings applies;

- who require assistance in eating, dressing, toileting and washing their face and other such daily living activities, and also experience significant difficulty in adjusting to social life, or
- who have frequent epileptic seizures or other problematic behaviors including incontinence, abnormal eating habits, agitation, or lethargy, and requires constant supervision and protection

(b) Children with an IQ of 50 or under who are blind (or have severe low vision), deaf (or have severe hard of hearing), or with physical disorders.

② Persons of 18 years of age or older with severe intellectual disabilities.

All conditions of following (a) and (b) are met and constant care is required on a daily basis.

(a) Persons with intellectual disabilities who are assessed to have an IQ of 35 or under (or an IQ of 50 or under in case of persons with physical disorders, or visual or hearing impairments classified as grade one to three of physical disabilities)

(b) Persons to whom one of the following applies;

- who have difficulties in daily activities such as eating, toileting, bathing, washing faces, and dressing and require individual guidance and assistance, or
- who have problematic behaviors such as incontinence, abnormal eating habits, agitation, lethargy and hyperactivity, and require constant attention and guidance

③ Others: persons with mild and moderate intellectual disabilities

3. Certificate of Persons with Mental Disabilities

(1) Purpose

The Certificate of Persons with Psychiatric Disability is issued to persons who meet specific criteria of mental disability. It aims to provide a wide range of support smoothly in cooperation with respective organizations and therefore to promote reintegration, independence, and social participation of persons with mental disabilities.

(2) Eligibility

Persons with mental disabilities (including those with schizophrenia, mood disorder (mania, depression, affective disorders), atypical psychosis, epilepsy, toxic psychosis, organic psychosis and other mental disorder) whose daily living or social life is restricted

Persons with intellectual disabilities are not eligible because they can receive the Certificate of Persons with Intellectual Disability.

(3) Degree of disabilities

The degree of disability is indicated in a certificate and it ranges from grade one for the most severe disabilities to grade two and grade three.

Grade one: Persons whose disability prevents them from conducting their daily activities

Grade two: Persons who have or require significant restrictions in daily life

Grade three: Persons who have or require some restrictions in daily or social life

Chapter 4 Welfare Services

1. Supply System of Independent Living Support Benefits in Relation to Welfare Services

Welfare services used to be provided according to the type of disability i.e. physical, intellectual or mental disability. It had been pointed out that the system of facilities and programs was complicated to understand and it was difficult to use these services. In order to enable persons with disabilities to use the necessary services regardless of the type of their disabilities i.e. physical, intellectual or mental, the service system was unified and the facilities and programs were accordingly rearranged.

< Current Services >

< New services >

Services at home	Home help (physical, intellectual, children, mental)
	Day service (physical, intellectual, children, mental)
	Short-stay (physical, intellectual, children, mental)
	Group homes (intellectual, mental)

Services at facilities	Facilities for children with severe physical and intellectual disabilities (children)
	Nursing homes (physical)
	Rehabilitation facilities (physical, intellectual)
	Sheltered workshops (physical, intellectual, mental)
	Welfare factories (physical, intellectual, mental)
	Dormitories for workers (intellectual)
	Welfare homes (physical, intellectual, mental)
	Training facilities for daily living (mental)

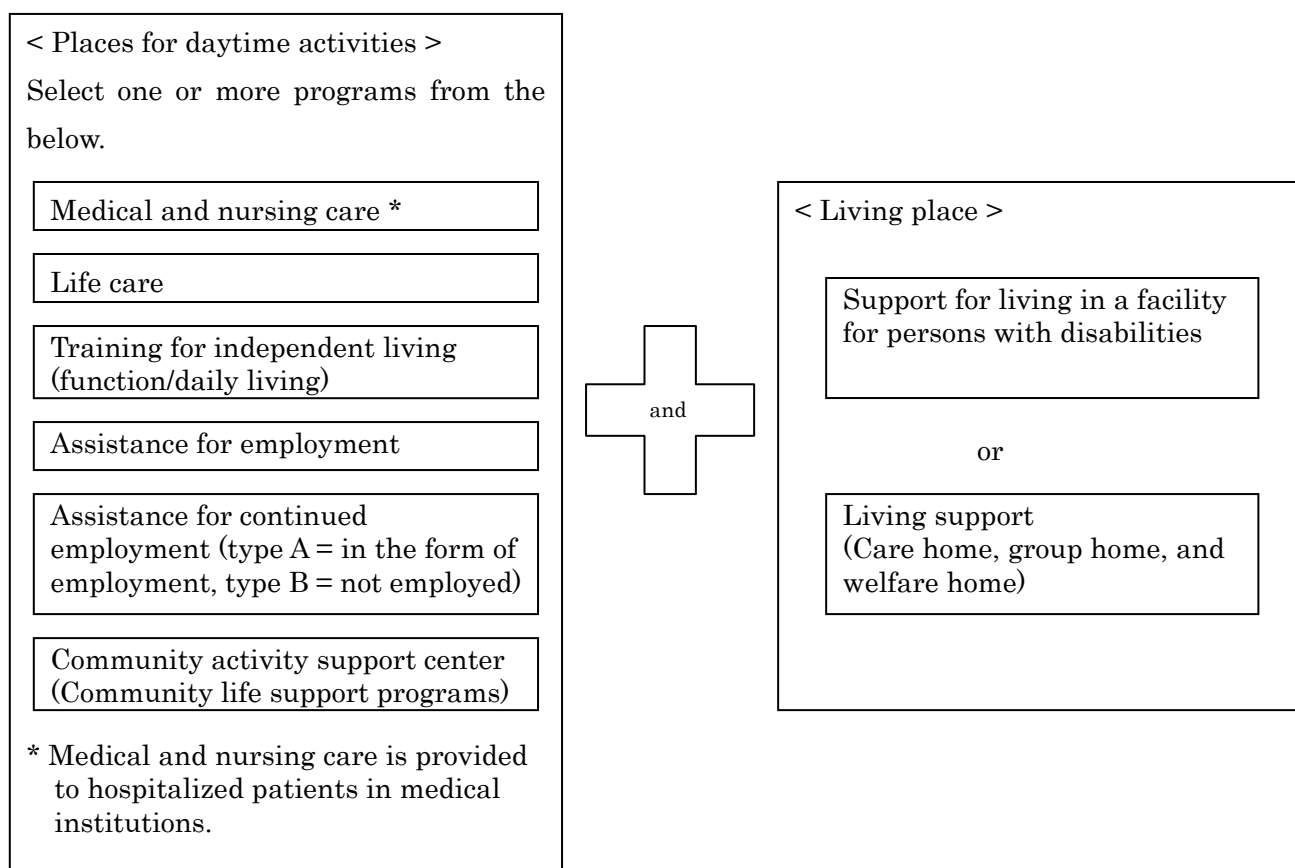
Home help (Personal care at home)	Provide support at home in bathing, toileting, eating etc.	Care Benefit
Visiting care for persons with severe disabilities	Provide comprehensive assistance to persons with severe physical disorders who need constant support in bathing, toileting and eating at home and also in moving when they go out, etc	
Activity support	Provide necessary support to avoid dangers when persons with a limited ability to judge by themselves go out and engage in some activities	
Comprehensive support for persons with severe disabilities etc	Provide several services comprehensively such as 'home help (personal care at home) to persons in great need of care	
Day service for children	Give guidance to children with disabilities regarding basic movements in daily life and provide training for adapting to group activities	
Short-stay	Provide support in bathing, toileting, eating for a short period including during the night in case a carer at home is ill, etc.	
Medical and nursing care	Provide persons, who need medical treatment and constant care, with functional trainings, necessary control for their recuperation, nursing, care, and support in daily living activities at medical institutions	
Care in Daily Life	Provide support to persons, who need constant care, in bathing, toileting, eating during the day and also provide opportunities for creative activities and productive activities	
Nighttime care at support facilities for persons with disabilities (support for living in a facility)	Provide support to persons admitted to facilities in bathing, toileting, eating etc during the night and at weekends	
Care homes	Provide support at collective homes in bathing, toileting, eating, etc. during the night and at weekends	
Training for independent living	Provide necessary trainings for a certain period to improve physical functions and social skills so that independent living and social life can be lead	Training Benefit
Assistance for employment	Provide persons who wish to work in a private company with necessary trainings for a certain period to improve their knowledge and skills necessary for employment	
Assistance for continued employment (type A = in the form of employment, type B = not employed)	Provide a workplace and necessary trainings to improve the knowledge and skills to those who are difficult to work in private companies	
Group homes	Provide consultation and support in daily living at collective homes during the night and at weekends	
Mobility support	Provide mobility support so that persons with disabilities can go out without difficulties	Community Life Support Programs
Community activity support center	Provides opportunities for creative activities and productive activities as well as interaction with society	
Welfare homes	Provide rooms to those who need housing for low price and also necessary support in daily life	

■ Combination of daytime activity programs and nighttime living support programs

Services provided in institutions and facilities are divided into ‘day services (daytime activity programs)’ and ‘nighttime services (living support programs)’ and users can select and combine these services.

When using these programs, an individual support plan for each user is formulated to provide appropriate services in accordance with their purpose of use.

For example, a person in a nursing home for persons with physical disabilities who needs constant care can select ‘life care’ program from daytime activity programs and ‘support for living in a facility’ from nighttime living support programs. When persons with disabilities move to live in a community, they can continue to use the ‘life care’ program during the day.



2. Independent Living Support Medical Care Allowance

Costs of medical treatments such as operation of children/persons with physical disabilities to reduce or recover from disabilities as well as medical costs of outpatients with psychiatric disabilities are subsidized.

3. Adaptive Equipment Allowance

Costs to purchase adaptive equipment to compensate or substitute the lost body parts or damaged body functions of children/persons with physical disabilities are subsidized. (prosthesis, orthosis, wheelchair, glasses, white cane for the blind, hearing aid, etc)

Note: Care Benefit, Training Benefit, Independent Living Support Medical Care Allowance, and Adaptive Equipment Allowance are 'Independent Living Support Benefits' provided to individual users.

4. Community Life Support Program

(1) Programs at Municipal Level

Programs	Contents
<p>Consultation support program</p>	<p>Consultation for persons with disabilities, their guardians and carers, provision of necessary information and support to protect rights of persons with disabilities, and establishment of Independent Living Support Council to build a consultation support system and network in a community</p>
<p>Communication support program</p>	<p>Dispatch of sign language interpreters, note takers, Braille translators, etc. in order to intermediate the communication with persons who have difficulty in communicating due to hearing, speech, voice, visual impairments</p>
<p>Program to supply equipment for daily living</p>	<p>Provision or rental of devices necessary in a daily life to support independent living of persons with severe disabilities</p>
<p>Mobility support program</p>	<p>Provision of support to persons who have difficulty in mobility when they go out</p>
<p>Community activity support center</p>	<p>Provision of opportunities for creative activities and productive activities to persons with disabilities in the community and promotion of their interaction with society</p>
<p>Other programs</p>	<p>Programs necessary for independent daily living or social life, according to the judgment of municipal government</p> <p>Examples: welfare home program, visiting bathing service program, day time temporal support service, social participation promotion program, etc.</p>

(2) Programs at Prefectural Level

Programs	Contents
Highly professional consultation support program	Consultation and provision of necessary information regarding disabilities which requires highly professional knowledge such as developmental disorders, higher brain dysfunction, etc.
Wide-area support program	Programs which require supports beyond the scope of municipalities, e.g. program to promote and support persons with mental disabilities in leaving hospital
Other programs (including training program)	<p>Programs necessary for independent daily living or social life, according to the judgment of prefectural government</p> <p>Examples: welfare home program, information support program, comprehensive promotion program of IT for persons with disability, social participation promotion program, etc.</p> <p>Training programs etc targeted for service providers and instructors</p>

5. Institutions not included in Independent Living Support Benefits

(1) Institutions for children with disabilities

Institutions for children with intellectual disabilities, institutions for children with visual impairments, institutions for children with hearing impairments, institutions for children with physical disorders, etc

(2) Community institutions for persons with physical disabilities

Welfare centers for persons with physical disabilities, Braille libraries, facilities to provide information to persons with hearing impairments, guide dog

training centers, etc

6. Welfare Services and User Expense

Welfare service users who receive Independent Living Support Benefit etc have to principally bear all the costs for food, electricity and water, and 10% of other costs. In case of persons with low income, the cost shall be reduced or exempted.

7. Support of Using Welfare Services

○ Statement of Dissatisfaction

If not satisfied with designated classification of the degree of disabilities or decisions on the benefits, they can appeal to prefectural government (Examination Board of Statements of Dissatisfaction regarding Care Benefits of Persons with Disabilities etc).

○ Complaints Resolution Program

Complaints Resolution Program can be utilized for complaints on welfare service for persons with disabilities in general. The users can state complaints at a service counter designated for receiving complaints, which is established at each service provider, or directly file complaints at Management Adjustment Committee set up in the Prefectural Council of Social Welfare.

○ Community Welfare Rights Protection Program

This is a service to support persons with a limited ability to judge with utilizing welfare services, managing their money or keeping documents in daily life. Consultation can be made at a nearby Social Welfare Council.

○ Adult Guardian Program

This system protects rights of persons with a limited ability to judge who are not sure about their own intentions and decisions at the time of taking legal actions such as making a contract etc. The program compensates their limited ability to judge and prevents them from receiving damage. Consultations can be made at a nearby local government offices, or a consultation desk of disability welfare, Social Welfare Council, offices of judicial scriveners, law firms etc in a local community.

Chapter 5 Income Security

1. Disability Pension

		National Pension (Disability Basic Pension)
Eligibility		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Persons whose contribution paid period is at least two thirds of their insurable periods (including contribution exempted periods) and who have disabilities. ● Persons who had medical examinations under 20 years of age and have disabilities when they turn 20 years of age, or acquire disabilities at 20 years of age or older.
Pension start date		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To have disabilities one year and six month after their medical examination (if fixed during this period, at the time of the fix) or to become disabled before reaching 65 years of age.
Monthly amount of disability pension (FY 2006)		(Grade one) ¥ 66,008 × 1.25 + additional benefits for children (Grade two) ¥66,008 + additional benefits for children Calculation of additional benefits for children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ¥18,992 each for the first and second child • ¥6,325 each for third and subsequent child Children here are defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children under 18 years of age • persons under 20 years of age with disabilities of Grade one or two
Examples of the degrees of disabilities	Grade one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● persons without both upper limbs ● persons without both lower limbs ● persons whose corrected eyesight is 0.04 or less in both eyes ● others
	Grade two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● persons without one upper limb ● persons without one lower limb ● persons whose corrected eyesight is between 0.05 and 0.08 in both eyes ● others

2. Disability Allowance

	Allowance for Persons with Profound Disabilities	Allowance for Welfare of Children with Disabilities	Welfare Allowance (for past measures)	Special Child Rearing Allowance
Objective	To improve welfare for persons with profound disabilities by providing allowance as a part of welfare measures to help them reduce their specific mental and physical burdens caused by profound disabilities.	To improve welfare for children with severe disabilities by providing allowance to help them reduce their specific mental and physical burdens caused by the severe disabilities.	To improve welfare for persons with severe disabilities by providing allowance to help them reduce their specific mental and physical burdens caused by the severe disabilities.	To expand child welfare by providing allowance for children with mental or physical disabilities.
Recipients	Persons who are living at home, 20 years of age or older, and in need of constant specialized care in their daily living because of their profound mental or physical disabilities	Children who are living at home, under 20 years of age, and in need of constant specialized care in their daily living because of their severe mental or physical disabilities	Among persons of 20 years of age or older who are qualified recipients of past welfare allowance, those who are not eligible for the Allowance for Persons with Profound Disabilities or Disability Basic Pension	Parents and other guardians who raise and supervise at home children with moderate mental or physical disabilities of under 20 years of age
Monthly Benefit Amount (since April 2006)	¥26,440	¥14,380	¥14,380	Grade one ¥50,750 Grade two ¥33,800
Annual income restriction (2003)	Qualified recipient (single household) ¥5,180,000 Person with support obligation	Qualified recipient (single household) ¥5,180,000 Person with support obligation	Qualified recipient (single household) ¥5,180,000 Person with support obligation	Qualified recipient (four-person household) ¥7,707,000 Person with support

	(two-person household) ¥8,596,000	(two-person household) ¥8,596,000	(two-person household) ¥8,596,000	obligation (six-person household) ¥9,542,000
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Chapter 6 Education

1. Regular Elementary and Junior High Schools

(1) Special Support Services in Resource Rooms

The children with relatively moderate disabilities such as speech disabilities, emotion disorders, low vision and hard of hearing etc are taught each subject etc mainly in a regular classroom, provided necessary guidance in a special setting to overcome the difficulties caused by their disabilities.

(2) Classes for Special Needs Education

This class is for children with disabilities who need special support.

2. Schools for Special Needs Education

(1) Special Schools for Children with Visual Impairment

Special schools for children with visual impairment aim to provide children with visual impairment with necessary knowledge and skills, as well as education programs according to the levels of kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school and senior high school. Prefectural governments are responsible for their establishment. Presently there are 71 schools for the blind, with 3,809 students enrolled.

(2) Special Schools for Children with Hearing Impairment

Special schools for children with hearing impairment aim to provide children with hearing impairment with necessary knowledge and skills, as well as education programs according to the levels of kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school and senior high school. Prefectural governments are responsible for their establishment. Presently there are 106 schools for the deaf, with 6,639 students enrolled.

(3) Special Schools for Children with Disabilities

Special schools for children with disabilities aim to provide children with intellectual disabilities, children with physical disorders and children in poor health conditions with necessary knowledge and skills as well as education programs according to the levels of kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school. Prefectural governments are responsible for their establishment. Presently there are 825 schools for children with disabilities, with 91,164 students enrolled.

In accordance with the amendments of Fundamental Education Law in 2006, special schools for children with visual impairment, special schools for children with hearing impairment and special schools for children with disabilities are able to give education not only to children with one specific type of disability but with several different types of disabilities. They shall also function as a center to support the guidance of children with disabilities enrolled in regular elementary and junior high

Chapter 7 Employment

1. Employment Quota System for Persons with Disabilities

The Law for Employment Promotion, etc. of the Disabled Persons mandates that private corporations and national and local public entities employ a certain quota or more of persons with physical, intellectual or mental disabilities.

(As of July 1, 1998)

Private corporations	Regular private corporation	1.8%
	Special juridical person etc	2.1%
National and local public entities	National and local public entities	2.1%
	Prefectural Boards of Education, and other Boards of Education designated by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare	2.0%

Persons with severe disabilities are counted as two when calculating the number of persons with disabilities who are employed. Persons with severe disabilities who cannot work full-time are counted as one for the purpose of promoting their employment.

2. Levy and Grant System for Employing Persons with Disabilities

The Levy and Grant System for Employing Persons with Disabilities is intended to alleviate the economic burden on employers who employ persons with disabilities and to further improve the employment standard of persons with disabilities. Levies are collected from corporations with 301 or more regular workers that have not met the employment quota. Adjustment allowance and rewards are provided to corporations that have met the quota. Grants are provided to employers and others who establish or improve work facilities for employing persons with disabilities or hire workplace attendants for employment management of persons with severe disabilities.

[Collection of Levies]

Corporations who fail to employ the legally required number of persons with disabilities are collected the levy of ¥50,000 per person per month.

[Payment of Adjustment Allowance, Rewards and Grants]

- Payment of Adjustment Allowance
(Corporations with more than 301 regular workers)
¥27,000 for each person in excess of the quota per month
- Payment of rewards
(Corporations with 300 or fewer regular workers which employ more than 4 % or 6 persons with disabilities)
¥21,000 for each person in excess of the quota per month
- Grants for:
 - (1) Provision of workplace facilities, etc for persons with disabilities
 - (2) Improvement of workplace facilities for persons with disabilities
 - (3) Workplace attendants for persons with severe disabilities
 - (4) Commuting measures for persons with severe disabilities
 - (5) Skill development of persons with disabilities

3. Vocational Rehabilitation at the Vocational Rehabilitation Centers for Persons with Disabilities

There are three types of vocational rehabilitation centers for persons with disabilities.

- 1) National Institute of Vocational Rehabilitation (Chiba City)
National Institute of Vocational Rehabilitation, serving as the core facility for

all vocational rehabilitation centers in Japan, conducts a high level of research and development on vocational rehabilitation skills, disseminates the results of research and development, and provides trainings for specialists.

2) Area Vocational Rehabilitation Centers for Persons with Disabilities

Area vocational rehabilitation centers provide systematic vocational rehabilitation services in larger regions in close corporation with the Vocational Ability Development Centers for Persons with Disabilities and medical institutions.

(1) National Vocational Rehabilitation Center (Saitama Prefecture)

(2) National Kibi-Kogen Vocational Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities (Okayama Prefecture)

(3) Vocational Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Spinal Injuries (Fukuoka Prefecture)

3) Local Vocational Center for Persons with Disabilities

Local vocational centers are established in every prefecture and provide specialized and comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services ranging from consultations concerning employment to follow-ups in close corporation with Public Employment Security Offices (PESO). They also dispatch job coaches to corporations, support persons with disabilities in adapting to their workplaces, and provide trial-employment programs for employees who have never hired persons with disabilities before.

4. Vocational Ability Development Centers for Persons with Disabilities

Vocational Ability Development Centers for Persons with Disabilities provide persons with disabilities, who have difficulties in receiving vocational training at regular public vocational ability development facilities, with trainings appropriate to their capacities.

5. An exceptional subsidiary company

It is mandatory for companies to employ persons with disabilities. However a parent company can establish an exceptional subsidiary company which is considered as a business establishment of the parent company. In an application of the Levy and Grant System, if the exceptional subsidiary company does special

considerations for the employment of persons with disabilities, these employees may be deemed to be those employed by the parent company in case a Public Employment Security Offices (PESO) authorizes. Therefore a parent company can reduce the amount of the levy or receive the grant for employing legally required number or more of persons with disabilities by establishing the exceptional subsidiary company.

Chapter 8 Accessibility

1. Public Transportation and Public Building Infrastructure

The Law for Promoting Easily Accessible Transportation and Building Infrastructure etc for the Aged and the Disabled Persons provides the standards and guideline for improving accessibility. Under this law, removal of barriers is systematically carried out through provision of guidance and advices to entrepreneurs as well as subsidies and loans to improve the facilities etc.

(1) Targets

Passenger facilities, vehicles, roads, parking spaces, parks and buildings

(2) Facilities

Barrier-free toilets for persons with disabilities, elevators, escalators, slopes, parking space reserved for persons with disabilities, Braille blocks for persons with visual impairments, non-step buses, vehicles with reserved space for wheelchairs, and audible traffic signals for persons with visual impairments, etc.

2. Information and Communication

In accordance with the Law for Promoting Businesses that Facilitate the Use of Communications and Broadcast Services by Physically Disabled Persons and other laws, the following supports are provided to persons with visual impairments or hearing impairments for the purpose of improving their access to information and their communication.

(1) Research and development on information and communication devices and systems for persons with disabilities

(2) Support for maneuver and use of IT devices

(3) Subsidies to purchase information and communication devices

(4) Production of captioned videos, Braille books etc

(5) Promotion of the use of captions, sign language, and audio description in TV

broadcast

- (6) Training of volunteers for Braille translation, reading out printed materials, note taking, and sign language. Training of sign language interpreters. Dispatch of sign languages and note taking volunteers.

Chapter 9 Other Services

Services	Targets	Contents
Exception to the no-parking rule	Cars used by persons with physical disabilities who have difficulties in walking.	
Discount fare for Japan Railway	When persons with physical or intellectual disabilities travel alone more than 101km by train.	50% discount from ordinary train fare
	When carers accompany persons with severe physical or intellectual disabilities, both caregivers and persons with disabilities are eligible.	50% discount from ordinary train fare and express surcharge
Discount airfare	Persons with physical or intellectual disabilities. When carers accompany, both carers and persons with disabilities are eligible.	Different discount rates depending on airline companies
Discount fare for the use of toll roads	When persons with physical disabilities drive. When caregiver drive a car with persons with severe physical and intellectual disabilities aboard.	50% discount
Reduction or exemption of Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) subscription fee	Low income household with persons with physical or severe intellectual disabilities.	Free of charge
	When the head of household is a person with visual, hearing impairments or physical disorders	Half price
Reduction or exemption of postage fee	Braille materials and talking books (up to 3kg), videotapes for persons with visual impairments, hearing impairments, or physical disorders.	Free of charge
	Journals published by organizations of/for persons	Half price

	with disabilities, booklets for persons with disabilities, small packet for persons with hearing impairments, small packet of Braille materials (up to 3 kg).	
Priority in moving into public housings	Persons with disabilities and households with persons with disabilities.	
Tax reduction or exemption	Income Tax.	Income deduction of ¥270,000
	Inheritance Tax deduction for persons with disabilities.	70 – one's age × ¥60,000 or ¥120,000 (for persons with severe disabilities)
	Automobile Tax, Automobile Acquisition Tax	Tax free
	Gift Tax (when trust contract is concluded between persons with profound disabilities and a trust company).	Tax free up to ¥60,000,000