

# **Welfare for Persons with Disabilities in Japan**

**2004**



Japan International Cooperation Agency

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Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities

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## Foreword

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has conducted 15 training courses related to disability issues, and a number of nongovernmental organizations in Japan have also implemented similar programs to introduce the current situation of persons with disabilities and services for them in Japan. Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD) has been entrusted by JICA since 1983 to conduct group training courses in “Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Promotion of Persons with Disabilities” and “Leaders of Persons with Disabilities” every year.

JSRPD has been commissioned by JICA to organize the follow-up program for these two JICA training courses in 2004. The publication of this booklet is part of this program.

We are very pleased to be able to offer this booklet, which introduces welfare for persons with disabilities in Japan. This publication will be distributed to people taking part in these programs as well as former participants. It will also be made available to others interested in this field.

We hope this publication will enhance the relationship between Japan and the countries of the programs’ participants through an exchange of information.

Please note that this booklet is compiled from *Welfare for Persons with Disabilities-2004*.

Special thanks are extended to Ms. Naomi Epstein for her translation, Ms. Eiko Okuno and Ms. Etsuko Ueno for their support and Ms. Keiko Nakatani for her timeless efforts to accumulate and edit this booklet.

Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities  
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# **Welfare for persons with disabilities in Japan**

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## **Chapter 1**

### **Overview of Measures for Persons with Disabilities in Japan**

#### **I. Comprehensive Initiatives**

The New Long-Term Program for Government Measures for Persons with Disabilities which was formulated on the basis of the Fundamental Law for Disabled Persons enacted in 1993, and the Action Plan for Priority Areas, which set down a strategy for achieving the goals of the New Long-Term Program over a seven-year period beginning in fiscal 1996, reached their conclusion in fiscal 2002. Following this, a new Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities, covering fiscal 2003 to 2012, was passed as a Cabinet order in December 2002, and a new Action Plan for Priority Areas (Five-Year Plan for Implementation of Priority Measures), which provided a strategy for realizing the goals of the Basic Plan during the first half of the 10-year term, was adopted.

The Basic Plan retains the concepts of normalization and rehabilitation from the New Long-Term Program while declaring its goal to be the creation of a society in which persons with disabilities are accorded the same rights and treatment as others and have the same opportunities and self-determination to participate and share in its responsibilities. The philosophy underlying these objectives is an “inclusive society,” in which all people respect individual differences and support each other.

Japanese government measures have their roots in the Fundamental Law for Disabled Persons and aim to provide services that meet the needs of individuals with disabilities in welfare, medical care, pensions, education, employment, and other areas. They also seek to create a barrier-free society in all realms, including access to buildings, transportation, and information. In order to promote measures comprehensively, legislation and systems must be formulated in a wide range of spheres.

Because policies are so widely dispersed, the Headquarters for Promoting the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities was established in the Cabinet Office to ensure that government ministries maintain close contact with each other and promote measures systematically and effectively. The organization is headed by the Prime Minister and staffed by relevant ministers, enabling a unified approach within the central government

to the formulation and passage of measures.

## **II. The Fundamental Law for Disabled Persons**

The Fundamental Law for Disabled Persons, which took force in 1993 and serves as the pillar of welfare policies in Japan, was revised in 2004.

This revised law sets forth “full participation and equality” as its guiding philosophy and maintains that the individual dignity and livelihood of persons with disabilities must be guaranteed, their opportunities to take part in society secured, and discrimination based on disability be abolished and equal rights protected.

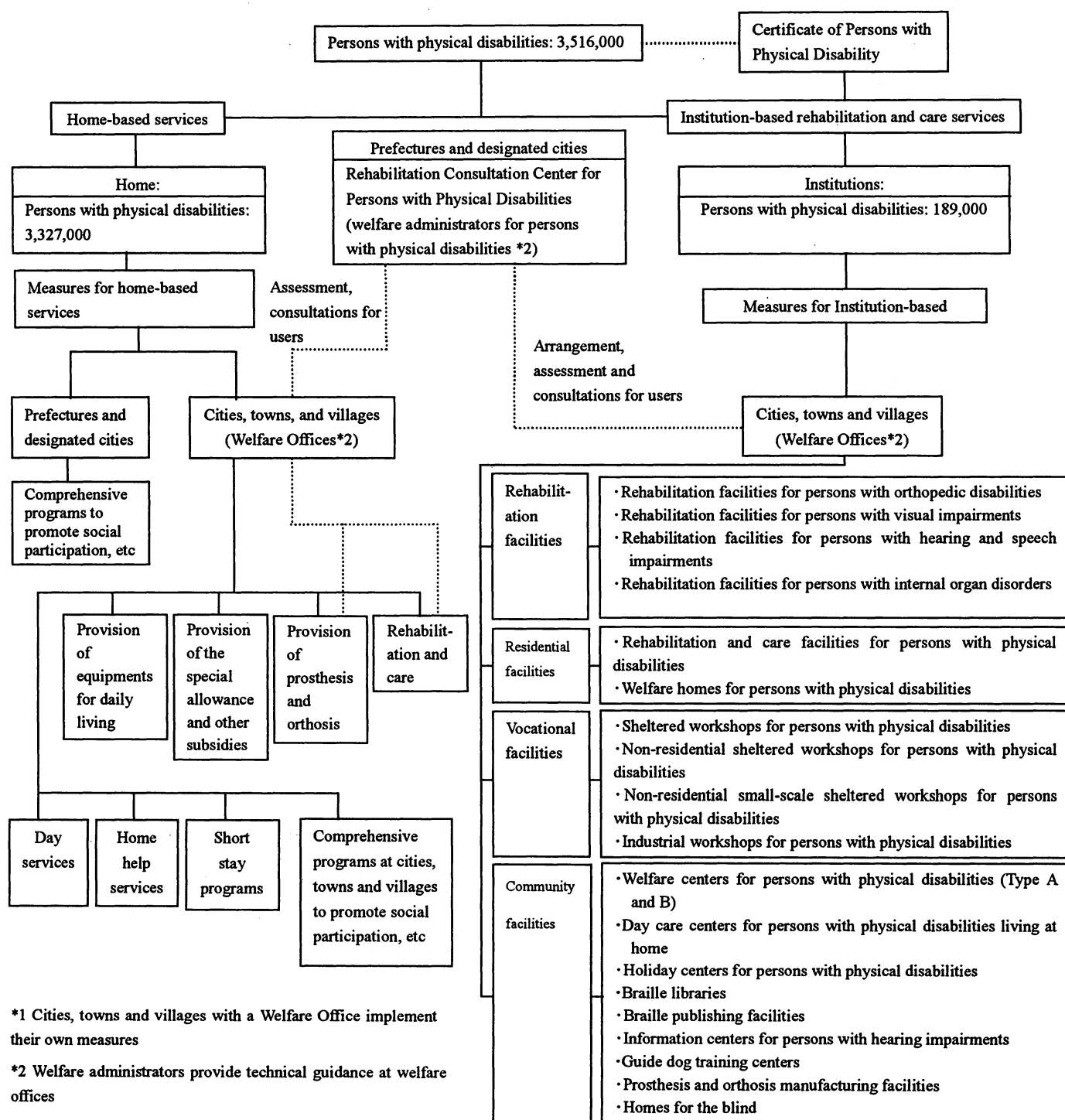
It also mandates that municipal governments draw up and implement comprehensive programs to support the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities. Finally, it makes provisions in medical and nursing care, living support, pensions, education, vocational training and employment, housing, barrier-free institutions and information, the prevention of causes of disabilities, and other areas so that the individual needs of persons with disabilities are met.

## Chapter 2

### Welfare Services for Persons with Physical Disabilities

#### I. Services for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Orthopedic, Visual and Hearing Disabilities)

Welfare measures for persons with physical disabilities are implemented by prefectures and municipalities in accordance with central government statutes. A large number of professionals and relevant organizations/agencies are involved in the process. The chart below illustrates how the system is organized.



\*1 Cities, towns and villages with a Welfare Office implement their own measures

\*2 Welfare administrators provide technical guidance at welfare offices

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Survey on the Actual Status of Persons with Physical Disabilities", 2001

## **II. Rehabilitation and Care Services**

### **1. Certificate of Persons with Physical Disability**

#### **(1) Overview of the System**

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

The certificate takes the form of a small handbook (and is thus called *Shintai-shogaisha techo* in Japanese) and carries the name of the person with the disability as well as the type and degree of disability. The certificate entitles holders to use designated rehabilitation and care services, receive prosthesis and orthosis, and take advantage of other systems formulated in accordance with Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons. It also entitles bearers to benefits outside the scope of the law, such as railroad fare reductions.

An application for the certificate must be submitted to the head of the local Welfare Office, or to the municipal mayor in cities and towns with no Welfare Office, together with a medical certificate, a letter of doctor's opinion (diagnosis), and a photograph of the applicant. The application and necessary materials are subsequently sent to the prefectural governor. There are no fees for applying.

#### **(2) Eligibility**

By definition, "Person with Physical Disability" must be 18 years of age or over and possess a Certificate of Persons with Physical Disability. There are 6 grades depending on the severity of disabilities under the certification system, with the most severe comprising the first two and moderate and mild disabilities comprising the remaining four. The same requirements for eligibility are applied to children under the age of 18. The followings are disabilities regulated under the Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons.

- 1) Permanent visual impairment as listed in the following:
  - ① Visual acuity (as measured in accordance with the International Vision Test Chart and measured degree of correctibility; hereinafter the same) of 0.1 or less in both eyes
  - ② Visual acuity of 0.02 or less in one eye and 0.6 or less in the other eye.
  - ③ Visual field diameter of 10 degrees or less in both eyes.
  - ④ Visual field defect more than 50% in both eyes.
- 2) Permanent hearing impairment and impairment of balance function as listed in the following:
  - ① More than 70 decibels in each ear
  - ② More than 90 decibels in one ear and 50 decibels in the other.
  - ③ Less than 50% of hearing capability
  - ④ Severe impairment of balance function
- 3) Impairment of voice, speech and mastication function
  - ① Total loss of voice, speech or mastication function
  - ② Severe and permanent impairment of voice, speech or mastication function
- 4) Impairment of the limbs or trunk as listed in the following:
  - ① Severe and permanent impairment of one upper limb, one lower limb or trunk.
  - ② Loss of thumb of one upper limb upward of the knuckle joint or loss of two or more fingers of one upper limb including the forefinger upward of the knuckle joints
  - ③ Loss of one lower limb upward of the lisfranc joint
  - ④ Loss of toes from both lower limbs
  - ⑤ Severe impairment of the thumb of one upper limb or severe and permanent impairment of three or more fingers of one upper limb including the forefinger
  - ⑥ In addition to the factors as listed in the foregoing, other impairments that are acknowledged to be of degrees higher than the impairments as listed in ① through ⑤ of the foregoing.
- 5) Impairments of the functions of the heart, kidney, respiratory organs, bladder, rectum and small intestine, that are permanent, and acknowledged as being of a degree to cause extreme limitations in daily living.

## **2. Diagnosis and consultations for rehabilitation**

Medical assessment to determine the degree of physical disability, needs of rehabilitation and medical care, and the need for prosthesis and orthosis, as well as consultations on rehabilitation, are designed to provide the guidance necessary for enabling persons with physical disabilities to live independently and take an active part in society. The services are provided when necessary and implemented by municipal governments.

## **3. Provision of rehabilitation and medical treatment**

All necessary medical treatment, including surgery to alleviate and reduce the degree of the disability or enable recovery, is entrusted to and performed at designated medical institutions. The fees are free or borne in part or fully by the user or the person of whom he or she is a dependent in line with the amount of taxable income. No fee is charged to households who are covered by public assistance (livelihood protection) or that are exempt from municipal taxes.

### **Examples of available medical treatment**

- (1) Visual impairments: surgical removal of the crystalline lens and surgery for a detached retina
- (2) Hearing impairments: surgery to close a perforation
- (3) Speech impairments: plastic surgery, medication, speech therapy
- (4) Physical disorders: joint replacement and reconstructive surgery after an amputation
- (5) Internal organ impairments: dialysis (impairment of kidney function), surgery to implant a pacemaker (impairment of heart function), central venous dietary therapy (impairment of small intestine function), anti human immunodeficiency virus therapy (impairment of immune function by HIV), and etc.

## **4. Provision of prosthesis and orthosis and repairment**

Prosthesis and orthosis that compensates for lost body parts and functions and supplementary devices are provided to persons with physical disabilities.

### **Examples of equipments**

- (1) Visual impairments: Cane for the blind, artificial eye, spectacles, Braille

typewriter

- (2) Hearing impairments: hearing aids
- (3) Voice and speech impairments: artificial larynx
- (4) Orthopedic disabilities; prosthesis and orthosis, sitting-position-keeping device, wheelchair, electric wheelchair, walker (standing frame for walking), etc.
- (5) Internal organ impairments: devices for stoma

### **III. Welfare Services to Support Persons with Disabilities Living at Home**

The needs for services go beyond the scope of basic measures, since the activities of persons who live in community is substantial. Therefore welfare measures in this area are growing in importance.

#### **1. Home help services**

Home helpers visit the homes of persons with physical disabilities and provide help bathing, toileting, house cleaning, and other activities that enable them to live at home.

#### **2. Short stay programs**

Facilities can be used for short-term stays of up to a week when family caregivers for persons with severe physical disabilities fall ill, give birth, attend a funeral, or take care of another social obligation, or when they make a trip or need respite for other personal reasons. The facilities for care and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities (medical care, rehabilitation and sheltered workshop) provide services of taking care of their everyday needs.

#### **3. Day services**

Day programs are offered to promote creative activities and provide functional training at non-residential facilities so that persons with physical disabilities can live independently, enjoy their lives, and maintain or improve their living skills.

Services provided;

- (1) Assistance for bathing and offering meal
- (2) Artistic activities: handicrafts, painting, calligraphy, and pottery
- (3) Functional training: ADL, walking, and housework
- (4) Guidance in personal care: instruction in care techniques to family members
- (5) Social adaptation training services: conversation, sign language, and Braille
- (6) Rehabilitation consultations: medical, welfare, and daily life
- (7) Recreation

#### **4. Provision of technical aids and equipments for daily living**

Technical aids and equipments are supplied or leased to persons with severe physical disabilities so that they can complete routine activities as smoothly as possible.

Below are some examples of the types of technical aids and equipments supplied or leased.

- (1) Impairments of lower limb and trunk: bathtubs (including water heating equipment), toilet facility, bathing stretcher, special type bed, special type urinal, posture-changing device, other auxiliary equipments needed for bathing, lift for mobility, assistive devices for walking, equipment to support daily activities, and subsidy for reform.
- (2) Upper limb impairments: personal computers
- (3) Visual impairments: tape recorder, watch for the blind, braille typewriter, braille books, CCTV (Closed Circuit Television), the aid to extend the time of traffic crossing, and OCR (optical character reader)
- (4) Hearing impairments: indoor light signal system: alarming with light/vibration, and decoder for receiving broadcasts by Communication Satellite (CS)
- (5) Visual and hearing impairments: Braille display
- (6) Respiratory impairments: nebulizers, and electric phlegm suction devices
- (7) Kidney impairments: dialytic liquid heater
- (8) Common for persons with various disabilities: fire alarm device, and automatic fire extinguisher
- (9) Items for lease: welfare telephones, and facsimiles
- (10) Group use: word processors for persons with visual impairments

## **5. Home visit and guidance for persons with severe physical disability living at home**

Doctors and other professionals are dispatched in cases where a person with a severe physical disability lives at home but has difficulty to come to hospital or rehabilitation center. The visit can include a physical assessment, consultations on daily living, welfare, medical treatment, and work, and referral to appropriate facilities.

## **IV. Measures to Promote Social Participation**

To realize “Full participation and equality” and “Normalization,” it is very important to make the environment accessible for persons with physical disabilities to live independently in their community and participate in society.

### **1. Independent living support programs and comprehensive programs to promote social participation**

The following programs are aimed at realizing the concept of normalization so that persons with various disabilities to live independently as full-fledged members of their community, enhancing public awareness concerning persons with disabilities, and creating a society in which everybody can achieve happiness.

#### **【Program menu for prefectural governments】**

- (1) Comprehensive programs for persons with disabilities to promote social participation
  - 1) Establishment of prefectural centers for persons with disabilities to promote participation in society
  - 2) Management of a disability hot line for consultation
  - 3) Development of peer counselor activities
  - 4) Training of assistance dogs for persons with physical disabilities
  - 5) Training of daily living skills
    - Instruction in daily living skills
    - Speech therapy for persons with voice impairments and therapist training programs

- Family workshops

#### 6) Information service programs

- Building of networks to provide prompt information by Braille
- Training of helpers for Braille translation, reading and summary writing
- Training of sign language interpreters
- Training of interpreters and guide helpers for persons with visual and hearing impairments
- Placement of sign language interpreters at public institutions such as Welfare Offices
- Establishment of rental libraries for closed captioned video for persons with hearing impairments
- Publication of Braille and tape-recorded versions of public relation materials

#### 7) Mobility assistance programs

- Provision of information on guide helpers
- Network for dispatch of the sign language interpreters

#### 8) Promotion of sports and artistic activities

- Organization of sports and recreational workshops/classes
- Training of sports instructors
- Organization of courses on arts and culture

#### 9) Awareness programs

- Information services on social resources
- Awareness raising activities to avoid prejudice and discrimination towards persons with disabilities

#### 10) Municipal programs to promote social participation

- Helper dispatch services
- Sign language interpreter dispatch services
- Assistance for obtaining a driver's license, vehicles renovations subsidy
- Assistance for community living
- Support for individual activities
- Family counseling service referrals
- Support for volunteer activities
- Peer counseling

11) Dispatch guide and interpreter for persons with deaf-blindness

Programs to dispatch interpreters and personal assistants who can help persons with deaf-blindness so that they can live independently and participate in society are being offered.

12) Comprehensive programs to promote information technology

- Management of information technology support centers for persons with disabilities
- Recycling of personal computers
- Program to support access to information
- Training and dispatch of volunteer computer teachers
- Promotion program to use personal computers

(2) Comprehensive programs to promote independent living

1) The System to Support the Fees to Purchase the Services

2) Issuing the Certificate

- Provision of Certificate for Persons with Intellectual Disability
- Provision of Certificate for Persons with Psychiatric Disability

3) Employment promotion programs by applying job in the open labor market on trial basis.

**【Program menu for municipal governments】**

Municipalities level of government with which persons with disabilities have the most contact, implement programs that meet their needs and promote their participation in society for realizing the concept of normalization. Many services are executed by municipal governments, but some are entrusted to local welfare organizations for persons with disabilities.

(1) Municipal programs for persons with disabilities to promote social participation

1) Services for living in the community

- Instruction in daily living skills
- Assistance for community living
- Support for individual activities

- Family counseling service referrals
  - Support for volunteer activities
  - Peer counseling programs
  - Recycling of technical aids and equipments
- 2) Information Services
- Helper dispatch service
  - Placement of sign language interpreters
  - Dispatch service of sign language interpreters
  - Publication of Braille and tape-recorded versions of public relations materials
- 3) Services
- Assistance for obtaining a driver's license, vehicle renovations subsidy
  - Mobility service for persons with severe physical disabilities
- 4) Promotion of sports and arts activities
- Organization of sports and recreation classes/workshops
  - Organization of arts and culture courses
- 5) Programs to promote coordination among municipalities
- 6) Programs to run accessible buses equipped with lifts
- 7) Programs to create barrier-free communities

(2) Municipal programs for persons with disabilities to support independent living

- 1) The System to Support the Fees to Purchase the Services
- 2) Mobile bathing service
- 3) Program to support independent living
- 4) Provision of expense
  - Provision of allowance for rehabilitation training
  - Provision of allowance for persons with disabilities who have completed rehabilitation services and are starting work in company.
- 5) Apprenticeship on commission

## **2. Municipal programs to support the daily activities of persons with disabilities**

Through a comprehensive implementation of the services listed below, municipalities seek to provide support for persons with disabilities living at home and promote their independence and social participation.

Types of services:

- (1) Subsidies for welfare services for the homebound
- (2) Support for the use of social resources
- (3) Enhancement of community life skills ability
- (4) Peer counseling
- (5) Referrals to professional organizations

## **3. Management of welfare homes for persons with physical disabilities**

Welfare homes for persons with physical disabilities, which are mainly run by local public entities and social welfare corporations, provide private rooms and technical aids and equipments for persons who are unable to live at home because of their disabilities and offer other services necessary on a routine basis.

## **4. Sheltered workshops for persons with physical disabilities living at home**

Light work at small-scale sheltered workshops, which are run by social welfare corporations or the Japanese Federation of Physically Disabled Persons, is made available to persons with severe disabilities who would otherwise have difficulty finding employment.

## **5. Peer counseling services**

Peer counselors are posted to provide consultations and guidance to persons with physical disabilities to promote their active participation in the community and public awareness for their community cooperate with Welfare Office or administrative organizations.

## **6. National Athletic Games for Persons with Disabilities**

Athletic games at the national level are organized every year for the purpose of letting persons with disabilities enjoy and experience sports through actual participation, promoting their participation in society, and enhancing understanding of disabilities

among all persons.

- (1) participants: persons with physical disabilities and intellectual disabilities 13 years of age or more.
- (2) Venue and time: The prefecture that hosts the National Athletic Game in the autumn takes charge of this event, which is held after the close of the National Athletic Game
- (3) Events: track and field, swimming, archery, table tennis, flying disk, bowling, basketball, wheelchair basketball, softball, grand softball, volleyball, soccer and foot baseball

**V. Institutional Services**

A variety of facilities exist to provide medical treatment and therapy, training in daily living, for those who want to work but have a hard time finding employment or rehabilitation services for those who have difficulties in living independently at home.

Rehabilitation and care facilities for persons with physical disabilities are classified as the following four categories, depending on their function. The first type, rehabilitation facilities, where training and therapy are mainly provided. The second, residential facilities, where care services and help for everyday activities are offered. The third, day activity facilities, where training in life and work skills are provided for those who have difficulty in finding employment opportunities. The fourth, community centers which is available for persons with disabilities living in the communities. Persons with disabilities can choose the type of facility depending on their needs.

**1. Rehabilitation and care facilities for persons with physical disabilities**

**(1) Rehabilitation facilities**

① Rehabilitation facilities for persons with orthopedic disabilities	Functional training is provided for persons who have a possibility of regaining a sufficient degree of work skills, regardless of the degree of his or her disability.
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② Rehabilitation facilities for persons with visual impairments	Training and knowledge on massage therapy, acupuncture and moxa therapy are provided.
③ Rehabilitation facilities for persons with hearing and speech impairments	Treatment and training needed for rehabilitation are provided.
④ Rehabilitation facilities for persons with internal organ disorders	Guidance and therapy necessary for rehabilitation are provided under medical supervision.

## (2) Residential facilities

⑤ Nursing institutions for persons with physical disabilities	Medical treatment and nursing care are provided for those who need 24 hours personal assistance and who have difficulties to have personal assistance at home.
⑥ Welfare homes for persons with physical disabilities	This is housing for persons with physical disabilities who want to live independently in community.

## (3) Day Activity facilities

⑦ Sheltered workshops for persons with physical disabilities	Vocational training and job opportunities are provided for those who have difficulty in finding employment opportunities so that the users can have working opportunities and live independently. (Training is geared toward employment in a company or self-employment, and the length of stay thus depends on the individual.)
⑧ Non-residential sheltered workshops for persons with physical disabilities	One type of sheltered workshops. Services provided are the same as ⑦. Users are limited to those who commute from home.

⑨ Small-scale sheltered workshops	Sheltered workshops with 20 or fewer users. Services provided are the same as ⑧.
⑩ Industrial workshops for persons with physical disabilities	Facilities for wheelchair users, who have work skills but cannot be employed due to inaccessible work place and transportation.

#### (4) Community Centers

⑪ Type A Welfare centers for persons with physical disabilities (Type A is established at prefectural level)	Facilities that provide consultations and services designed to promote good health, lifelong learning, sports and recreational activities.
⑫ Type B Welfare centers for persons with physical disabilities (Type B is established at municipal level)	Facilities that promote creative activities, skills trainings, and social adaptation through day programs for those who have severe physical disabilities living at home, and who have limitation in going out and job opportunities.
⑬ Day services for persons with physical disabilities	Facilities that promote creative activities, skills trainings, and social adaptation through community day programs as well as offer bathing and meal services for those who have severe physical disabilities living at home and are not able to find work.
⑭ Holiday centers for persons with disabilities	Accommodation facilities where persons with disabilities, their families, and volunteers can stay and relax are provided.
⑮ Braille libraries	Libraries where persons with visual impairments can use and borrow Braille publications and voice books
⑯ Braille publishing facilities	Facilities where Braille materials are published.
⑰ Information centers for persons with hearing impairments	Facilities where captioned videocassettes are produced and lent, sign language interpreters are dispatched, and information devices are leased.

⑱ Manufacturing Facilities for prosthesis and orthosis	Facilities where prosthesis and orthosis are manufactured and repaired.
⑲ Guide Dog Training Facilities	Facilities where guide dogs are trained and persons with visual impairments receive instruction on the use of a guide dog.
⑳ Homes for the Blind	Facilities where persons with visual impairments use facilitating their vocational life in massage techniques, acupuncture, moxa treatments, and other occupations including training.

## **2. Measures for residents of institutions**

### **(1) Allowance for rehabilitation and training**

Allowance covering the purchase of stationery and other goods needed for training are provided to persons with physical disabilities at rehabilitation and care facilities or residential facilities where vocational training programs are provided.

### **(2) Allowance for preparation to be employed**

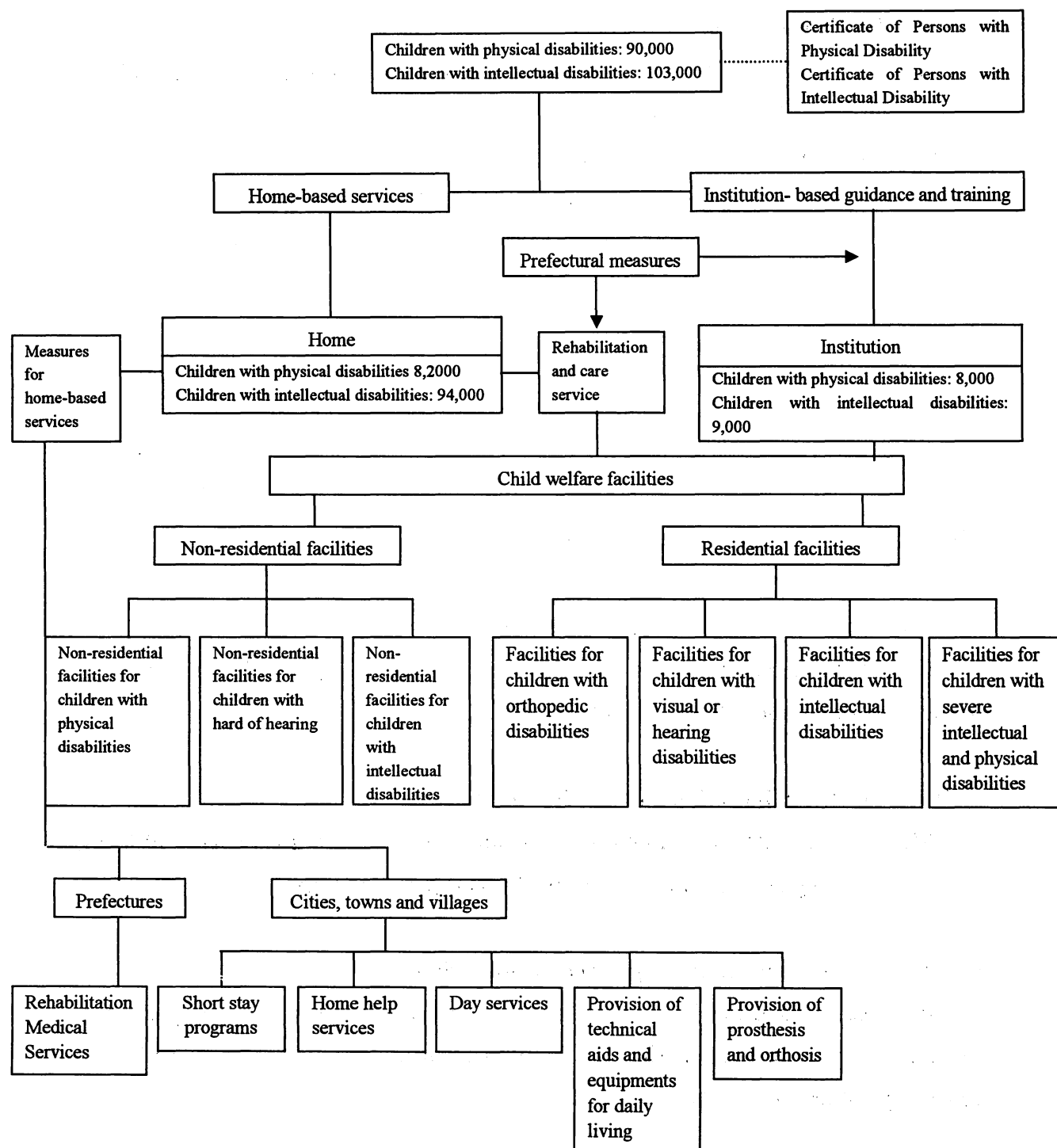
Allowance are provided to persons with physical disabilities who are starting working life after completing rehabilitation services to achieve independence through employment.

## Chapter 3

### Welfare Services for Children with Disabilities

#### I. Services for Children with Disabilities

Welfare measures for children with disabilities are implemented by prefectures and municipalities in accordance with central government statutes. A large number of professionals and relevant organizations/agencies are also involved in the process. The chart below illustrates how the system is organized.



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Survey on the Actual Status of Children with Physical Disabilities", 2001

## **II. Institutions for Welfare and Health Services**

### **1. Public Health Center**

Public Health Center for rehabilitation guidance seeks to identify children with disabilities as early as possible and take steps to minimize the disability through regular consultations and guidance by an orthopedic surgeon or other medical specialists.

### **2. Child Guidance Center**

Child Guidance Center provides consultations services and appropriate guidance by specialists on all issues concerning children. Children with disabilities can undergo an assessment by a doctor, psychologist, or other specialist and institutionalize at appropriate welfare facilities, such as facilities for children with physical disabilities, facilities for children with visual, hearing and speech disabilities.

### **3. Welfare Office**

Welfare Office provides consultations on and accept applications for prosthesis and orthosis, technical aids and equipments for daily activities, and other goods.

## **III. Welfare Services to Facilitate Everyday Activities**

### **1. Rehabilitation consultations and guidance**

Consultations on all matters relating to medical treatment, enrollment in welfare facility, prosthesis and orthosis, and other such issues.

### **2. Provision of rehabilitation and medical treatment**

Medical treatment for children with disabilities who have a good chance of being cured or becoming less impaired in a relatively short period of time.

### **3. Provision and repairment of prosthesis and orthosis**

Prosthesis and orthosis are supplied and repaired for children who possess a Certificate of Persons with Physical Disability to compensate their physical disability.

Types of prosthesis and orthosis:

Prosthesis, orthosis, sitting-position-keeping device, canes for the blind, artificial eyes, spectacles, Braille, hearing aids, artificial larynxes, wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs, standing-position-keeping device, walker(standing frames for walking), helmet, head supports, toilet supports, urine collecting device, device for stoma, and crutches.

#### **4. Home help services**

Home helpers provide the services of bathing, toileting, offering meal, and other daily activities for children with disabilities, who have difficulties for daily living.

#### **5. Provision of technical aids and equipments of daily living**

The following technical aids and equipments are provided to children with severe disabilities to facilitate their daily activities and support early intervention services:

Bathtub and water heating equipment, toilet facility, special type mat, personal computer, training chair, tape recorder, special type toilet facility, bathing stretcher, Braille typewriter, talking calculator for the blind, talking thermometer for the blind, training bed, automatic fire extinguisher, fire alarms, Braille book, posture-change device, dialytic liquid heater, special type urinal, helmet, Communication device for the deaf children, cell phone products, portable signal aid to lengthen crossing times at traffic lights, adaptive communication device for persons with severe disabilities, closed circuit television (CCTV), optical character reader (OCR), decoder for receiving broadcasts by Communication Satellite(CS) for persons with hearing impairments, assistive equipment for bathing, magnet cooker, lift for mobility, assistive devices for walking, nebulizers, electric phlegm suction machines, and devices that assist mobility in the home.

#### **6. Provision of special child rearing allowance**

An allowance is given to the parent or custodian of a child with psychiatric disability (including intellectual disability) or physical disability.

Amount per child, per month

Grade one: 50,900 yen

Grade two: 33,900 yen

## **7. Child welfare allowance**

An allowance is given to the parent or custodian of a child under the age of 20 who lives at home and needs special care because of severe disabilities.

Amount per child, per month      14,430 yen

## **8. System for benefit for rearing of persons with both intellectual and physical disabilities**

A life annuity is paid to persons with disabilities after their parent or custodian dies, when the parent or custodian made monthly contributions to the program while they were alive.

Annuity: 20,000 yen or 40,000 yen, depending on the size of the contribution

## **9. Day services**

Training is provided at facilities for children with physical disabilities, facilities for children with intellectual disabilities and other institutions to guide them with daily activities and help them adapt to group situations.

## **10. Short stay programs**

Children with disabilities can stay at facilities for children with physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities or other institution and receive necessary support services on a short-term basis, when their parents fall ill or cannot take care of them for another reason.

## **11. Day care programs for children/adults with both severe intellectual and physical disabilities**

Early intervention services, including rehabilitation guidance and instruction on daily living activities, physical therapy, and other types of therapies, are provided to children with both severe intellectual and physical disabilities.

## **12. Medical treatment and research programs for designated infantile chronic diseases**

Research is being undertaken and the medical fees are covered for 10 chronic children's diseases, including childhood cancer and chronic kidney disease.

**13. Community early intervention services for children and adults**

Programs to provide guidance and rehabilitation services to support their life in their own community.

**IV. Institutional Services**

Children with disabilities who need treatment, protection, or guidance over a relatively long period of time can enroll in programs and live at welfare facilities for children and receive appropriate medical services.

① Facilities for children with intellectual disabilities	Children with intellectual disabilities can enroll and live in one of these facilities and receive protection, education, and instruction in the skills necessary for living independently in the future.
② Facilities for autistic children	Autistic children whose main disability is autism can enroll and live in one of these facilities and receive protection, medical care, and therapy.
③ Non-residential facilities for children with intellectual disabilities	Children with intellectual disabilities receive protection, education, and training in skills necessary for living independently in the future. Children commute to the facilities from their home everyday.
④ Facilities for children with visual impairments	Children who are blind and have severe low vision can enroll and live in one of these facilities and receive protection and instruction in the skills necessary for living independently in the future.
⑤ Facilities for children with hearing impairments	Children with speech impairments, including those with severe hard of hearing, can enroll and live in one of these facilities and receive protection ad instruction in the skills necessary for living independently in the future.

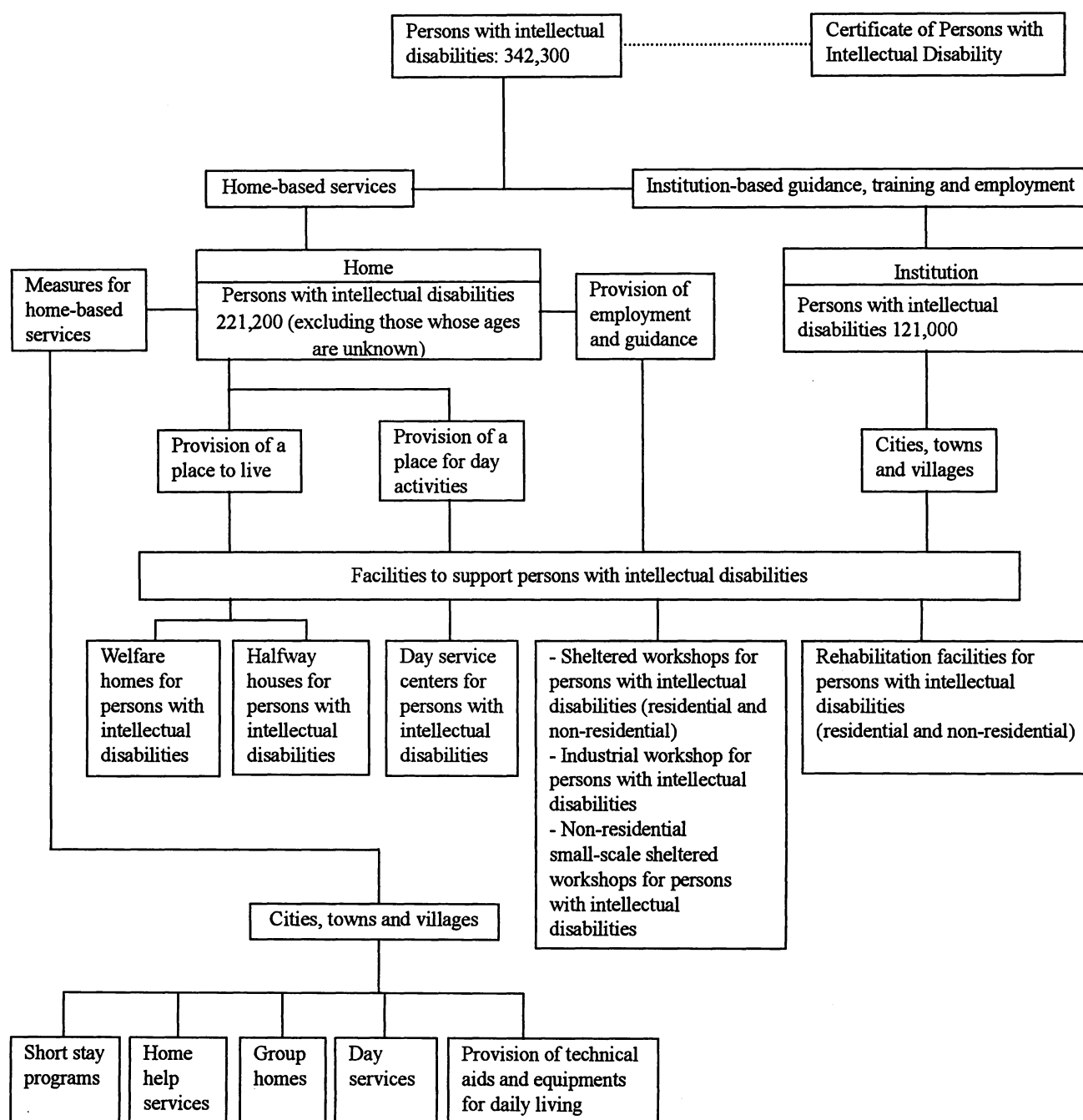
⑥ Non-residential facilities for children with hard of hearing	Children and infants with severe hard of hearing can commute from their home to one of these facilities and receive guidance and training.
⑦ Facilities for children with orthopedic disabilities	Children with orthopedic disabilities can receive medical treatment and instruction in the skills for living independently in the future.
⑧ Non-residential facilities for children with orthopedic disabilities	Children who can make sufficient progress through the programs can commute from their home to one of these facilities where they receive the necessary early intervention services.
⑨ Nursing care home for children with orthopedic disabilities	Children with mobility impairments who do not need to be hospitalized but have difficulty to be raised at home can live at one of these facilities.
⑩ Facilities for children with both severe intellectual and physical disabilities and the Special Ward at National Sanatorium	Children who have both severe intellectual and physical disabilities can become residents of one of these facilities and receive protection, medical care, and supervision over their daily activities.
⑪ Short-term facilities for children with emotional disturbances	Children with mild emotional disturbances can become residents of these facilities for short periods of time or commute from their home to attend day programs aimed at helping them deal with their emotional problems.
⑫ The Special Ward at National Sanatorium for children with progressive muscular atrophy	Children with progressive muscular atrophy can be hospitalized and receive medical treatment, instruction, and training geared at living independently.

## Chapter 4

### Welfare Services for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

#### I. Services for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

Welfare measures for persons with intellectual disabilities are implemented by prefectures and municipalities in accordance with central government statutes. A large number of professionals and relevant organizations/agencies are involved in the implementation. The chart below illustrates how the system is organized.



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Basic Survey of the Policy of the Welfare of Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities", 2000.

## **II. Certificate of Persons with Intellectual Disability**

### **1. Overview of the system**

The Certificate of Children/Adults with Intellectual Disability, which takes the form of a handbook and is thus called “handbook” (*Ryoiku-techo* in Japanese), is issued with the purpose of providing consistent guidance and counseling for 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 a Child Guidance Center or a Rehabilitation Consultation Center for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities are issued Certificate of Persons with Intellectual Disability.

### **3. Degrees of disability**

The degree of disability, which is written on the certificate, is as follows: “A” is for persons with a severe intellectual disability, and “B” is for persons with moderate and mild intellectual disabilities.

#### **(1) Those under 18 years of age with severe intellectual disabilities**

Those who have intellectual disability of the degrees described in 1) or 2) below and need constant care on a daily basis.

##### **1) Children with an IQ less than 35, to whom one of the following applies.**

- Requires help eating, dressing, going to the toilet, washing their faces, and other such daily activities, and experiences significant difficulty adjusting to social life.
- Has frequent epileptic seizures or other problematic behavior including incontinence, abnormal eating habits, agitation, or lethargy, and requires constant care and supervision.

##### **2) Children with an IQ of less than 50 who are blind (or have severe low vision), deaf (or are severe hard of hearing), or with orthopedic disabilities.**

#### **(2) Adults 18 years of age or older with severe disabilities**

Those who meet all conditions of either 1) and 2) and require constant care on a routine basis.

##### **1) Persons with intellectual disabilities who have been assessed to have an IQ of less than 35 (or those with an IQ of less than 50 with orthopedic disability,**

hearing, or visual impairments corresponding to a grade one to three physical disability).

2) Those to whom one of the following applies.

- Has difficulty with such routine activities as eating, toileting, bathing, washing up, and dressing and requires individual guidance and care.
- Displays such problematic behavior as incontinence, abnormal eating habits, agitation, lethargy, and hyperactivity and requires constant care and guidance.

3) Others

Those with milder disabilities

#### **4. Application procedures**

Fill out an application for the Certificate of Persons with Intellectual Disability and submit it, together with a photograph, to the head of the Welfare Office or mayor in cases of towns and villages where there is no Welfare Office. The application is subsequently sent to the prefectural governor or the mayor in the case of designated cities. As a rule, persons with intellectual disabilities must undergo a follow-up evaluation on eligibility every two years at a Child Guidance Center or a Rehabilitation Consultation Center for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

#### **5. Main services offered to certificate holders**

- (1) Consistent guidance and consultations
- (2) Day services
- (3) Provision of technical aids and equipments
- (4) Short stay programs
- (5) Exemption from or reduction of national and local government taxes
- (6) Priority for admission to public housing
- (7) Discounted tickets for Japan Railways and other transportation.

### **III. Welfare Services to Support Persons with Intellectual Disability Living at Home**

#### **1. Home help services**

Home helpers visit homes where persons with intellectual disabilities live and help them with bathing, housework, and other activities so that they are able to live at home.

## **2. Short stay programs**

Persons with intellectual disabilities can be cared in the facilities for a short period of time when a family caregiver for them at home is unable to do so due to illness or for some other reason.

## **3. Day services**

Persons with intellectual disabilities who are living at home can go to day care centers and take part in cultural activities or receive therapy, designed to enable their independence and enrich their lives.

## **4. Group homes**

Group homes for persons with intellectual disabilities are aimed to facilitate their independence and provide a place in the community where small groups of individuals can live and eat with the help of various support services.

## **5. Lease or provision of technical aids and equipments for daily living**

Technical aids and equipments necessary to facilitate daily living are leased or provided to persons with intellectual disabilities who have difficulty living at home. Special mats, special toilets, fire alarms, automatic fire extinguishers, helmet, and electromagnetic cookers are among other items made available.

## **6. Apprenticeship on commission**

Persons with intellectual disabilities can be placed in the care of a vocational guardian for up to a period of one year, who can provide them with guidance on completing daily tasks and teach them vocational skills. This system is designed to prepare them with the necessary skills for having and keeping a job. The vocational guardian who is eager to rehabilitate and support persons with intellectual disabilities is a owner of the firm and is admitted by a director of Welfare Office.

## **7. Services to support daily living**

Daily life support centers provide consultation services and guidance to help persons with intellectual disabilities living in the community. These centers are established within facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities designated by prefectural governors and mayors of designated and core cities, such as dormitories for persons with intellectual disabilities who are employed in company, rehabilitation facilities, sheltered workshops, and resource development centers.

## IV. Measures to Promote Social Participation

### 1. Training programs for independent living

Individualized and intensive guidance for up to 6 months on basic knowledge and skills necessary for living independently and working are provided to persons with intellectual disabilities who live in various institutions.

### 2. Industrial workshops

Industrial workshops employ persons with intellectual disabilities who have working skills but cannot be employed at regular companies because of difficulties in human relations, health management and other issues. The workshops promote social independence by offering for living and health management and other considerations.

### 3. Day programs in the community

Parents' Association for persons with intellectual disabilities provide appropriate daily activity training, job guidance to support persons with intellectual disabilities to work at non-residential facilities. In order to improve vocational skills, on the job training is also provided at the sheltered workshops in the community.

## V. Institutional Services

### 1. Rehabilitation and care centers

Rehabilitation and care centers play a vital role in providing guidance and training to enhance the community participation of persons with intellectual disabilities who are in need of sufficient supervision or who have difficulty in finding employment.

The following is kinds of facilities.

① Rehabilitation center for persons with intellectual disabilities	These centers are for persons age 18 or older (or 15 or older in special cases). They provide protection as well as necessary guidance and therapy. There are two types of centers; residential and non-residential.
② Sheltered workshops for persons with intellectual disabilities	These are for persons age 18 or older (or 15 or older in special cases) who have difficulty to be employed. They provide jobs and

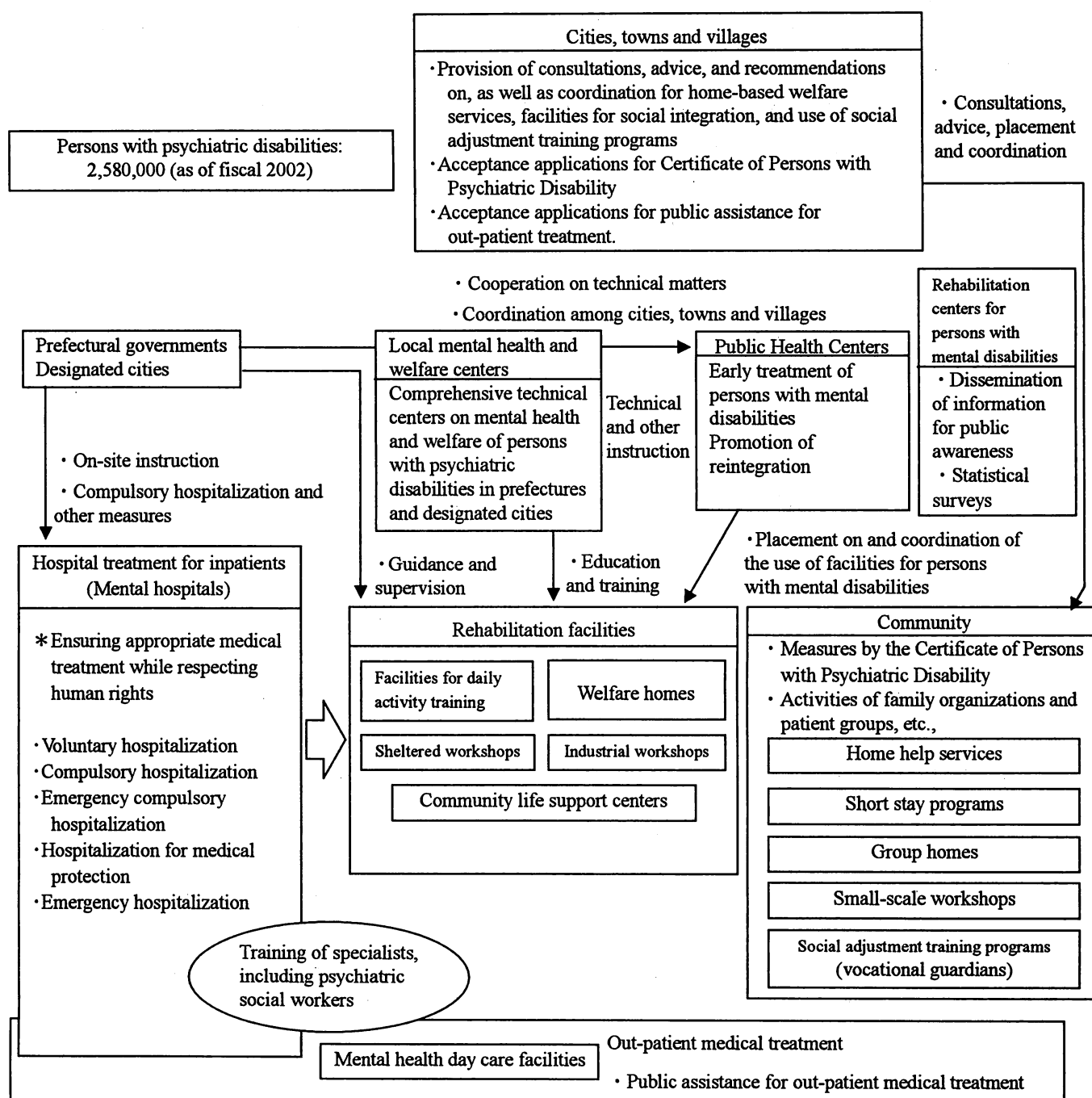
	<p>training necessary for leading independent living. There are sheltered workshops with residential facilities as well as non-residential. Persons receive wage for the work done here.</p>
<p>③ Dormitories for employees with intellectual disabilities</p>	<p>These dormitories are for the employees aged 15 or older who have completed programs at facilities for children with intellectual disabilities, rehabilitation centers for persons with intellectual disabilities, or sheltered workshops for persons with intellectual disabilities and are independent in self-care. The dormitories provide accommodations and other facilities and provide advice and guidance necessary for leading an independent living.</p>
<p>④ Welfare homes for persons with intellectual disabilities</p>	<p>These homes provide inexpensive accommodations and living support services for persons with intellectual disabilities who are in need of housing due to family circumstances or their family's housing conditions.</p>
<p>⑤ Day service centers for persons with disabilities</p>	<p>These centers offer cultural activities and functional training to persons with intellectual disabilities who live at home and cannot work to foster their independence and enrich their lives.</p>

## Chapter 5

### Welfare Services for Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities

#### I. Services for Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities

Measures on medical services, protection and welfare for persons with psychiatric disabilities are implemented by prefectures and municipalities in accordance with central government statutes. A large number of professionals and relevant organizations/agencies are involved in the implementation. The chart below illustrates how the system is organized.



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, (Patient Survey), 2002

## **II. Certificate of Persons with Psychiatric Disability**

### **1. Overview of the system**

The Certificate of Persons with Psychiatric Disability is issued to persons meeting specific criteria for mental illness for the purpose of providing various support measures with the cooperation of government organizations and promoting their reintegration, independence, and social participation.

### **2. Eligibility**

Persons with psychiatric disabilities (including those with schizophrenia, manic-depression (emotional disorders), atypical mental illness, epilepsy, toxic psychosis, organic psychosis and other mental illnesses), and among those who are restricted in their daily or social activities.

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

### **3. Degrees of disability**

The degrees of disability comprise grade one for the most severe, grade two, and grade three.

Grade one: Individuals whose disorder prevents them from conducting daily activities

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

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

### **4. Application procedures**

An application for the certificate must be submitted with a doctor's diagnosis or copy of a Disability Pension certificate to the municipal office where an applicant lives. The application is subsequently sent to the prefectural governor or city mayor, in the case of designated cities.

In principle, the applicant must submit the application in person, but it is also possible for a family member or staff of medical institution to submit it on behalf of the applicant.

The certificate is effective for two years from the application date. Those who wish to renew the certificate must undergo another evaluation of eligibility.

## **5. Benefits of the certificate**

- (1) Simplification of application procedures for government funds for outpatient medical treatment
- (2) Use of facilities for persons with psychiatric disabilities for reintegration

## **III. Welfare Services to Support Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities Living at Home**

### **1. Home help services**

Home helpers visit the homes of persons with psychiatric disabilities and provide help with meals, bathing and washing, and other such routine tasks to enable them to be independent and promote their reintegration.

### **2. Short stay programs**

Short-term stays are designed to promote the well-being of persons with psychiatric disabilities and their families. Facilities for persons with psychiatric disabilities can be used when family caregiver for persons with psychiatric disabilities fall ill, give birth, attend a funeral, or take care of another social obligation. Stays of up to seven days are permitted, but the period may be extended if special permission is obtained from the municipal mayor.

### **3. Group homes**

Group homes are designed to enhance the independence of persons with psychiatric disabilities through a living arrangement in which a small number of residents live together with support staff, who help them at meals, make sure they take their medication, and provide other assistance as necessary.

Support staff at group homes provide the following assistance:

- (1) Help at meals, instruction on medication, advice on the management of money, and other support for daily life
- (2) Necessary adjustments to ensure that residents do not encounter problems in their daily life, including prompt communication with medical institutions when problems arise because of illness.
- (3) Overall observation of residents' living conditions.
- (4) Group homes must have at least 4 residents.

**IV. Measures to Promote Reintegration and Participation**

**1. Social adjustment training programs**

Under this setup, persons with psychiatric disabilities commute to workshops for a certain period of time and undergo social adaptation training to learn how to concentrate, get along with other persons, endure the stress of work, and adapt to their environment. The programs are aimed at their reintegration by preventing relapses and to promote their social independence.

**2. Consultation and guidance for reintegration**

Public Health Centers provide consultations and guidance for reintegration as part of their mental health programs. The programs are aimed to support the social adaptation of persons with psychiatric disabilities who are in the process of recovering.

**3. Reintegration programs**

Consultation corners are opened on weekends and holidays at social rehabilitation facilities for persons with psychiatric disabilities to promote their reintegration.

**V. Institutional Services**

These facilities provide a supportive environment and assistance to persons with psychiatric disabilities to promote their reintegration and participation.

**1. Facilities for Reintegration**

① Daily life training facilities for persons with psychiatric disabilities	These facilities offer assistance to individuals who have difficulty living with their family at home by helping them adapt to daily life. They provide accommodations and other facilities by a minimal fee, as well as training and guidance necessary for reintegration. (Stay of up to two years permitted.)
② Welfare homes for persons with psychiatric disabilities	These homes are aimed to promote reintegration into society and independence by offering accommodations and other facilities by a minimal fee and support necessary for daily life. (Stay of up to two years permitted.)

③ Sheltered workshops for persons with psychiatric disabilities	These workshops are aimed for reintegration for persons with psychiatric disabilities who have difficulty having employment to live on their own. They provide necessary training and jobs by a nominal fee.
④ Industrial workshops for persons with psychiatric disabilities	These workshops provide employment for persons who have difficulty having regular employment. They also provide guidance needed to adapt to social life, thereby promoting their reintegration and participation in social economic activities.
⑤ Community life support centers for persons with psychiatric disabilities	These centers provide support and consultations on daily life issues to persons with psychiatric disabilities living in the community and conduct various exchange activities with the community, thereby promote their reintegration, independence, and social participation.

## 2. Subsidies for small-scale sheltered workshops

In order to enhance reintegration of persons with psychiatric disabilities living at home, the central and local governments provide subsidies through rehabilitation centers for persons with psychiatric disabilities for small-scale sheltered workshops and other such programs run by family support groups.

These programs provide the following:

- (1) Vocational guidance and training for daily life tailored to the needs of each individual.
- (2) On-site training at nearby sheltered workshops and other facilities to improve the skills of users.

The programs in principle should be designed for five or more users and must be offered for at least four days a week.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Related Services and Systems**

#### **I. The Fee Support System**

The Social Welfare Service Law was amended and renamed the Social Welfare Law in May 2000, and various reviews were made to the social welfare services and current system for the use of social welfare services and common welfare system to meet the nation's growing and diversifying welfare needs.

As one of the changes under the Basic Structural Reform of Social Welfare in Japan was the change of the service providing system for persons with disabilities. The old system was called "Sochi System" under which the local governments decided the services to provide on behalf of the persons with disabilities. The new system is called "Shien-hi System" under which the users select the services depending on their decision. This new system might be translated into English as "the Fee Support System for Users to Purchase the Services on their Choice".

The new system respects the rights of persons with disabilities to make their own choices and puts the emphasis on providing services that users require most. Persons with disabilities are put on an equal partnership with service providers, and users select what services they want to use and sign a contract for them. Service providers are expected to improve the quality of their services and provide a sufficient range of options.

##### **1. The structure of the new system**

- (1) Individuals who wish to receive assistance fee to purchase the services can consult, if necessary, with their municipal office about what kind of services are appropriate and submit an application for assistance fee.
- (2) The municipality reviews the application and notifies the applicant of its decision.
- (3) Individuals whose application has been approved can begin using services after entering into a contract with a service provider or facility designated by the prefectural governor.
- (4) The user, or person responsible for his or her support, must pay a portion of the fees incurred for the services, which is decided on the basis of the income. The

municipal government pays for what remains after the amount paid for by the user (or the person supporting him or her) is subtracted from the total. The service provider or facility acts as proxy and receives municipal payments directly.

## **2. Types of services available under the laws**

### **(1) Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons**

- Rehabilitation centers for persons with physical disabilities
- Rehabilitation and care facilities for persons with physical disabilities
- Sheltered workshops for persons with physical disabilities  
(limited to government-designated facilities)
- Home-based care and other programs for persons with physical disabilities
- Day services for persons with physical disabilities
- Short stay programs for persons with physical disabilities

### **(2) Law for the Welfare of Intellectually Disabled Persons**

- Rehabilitation centers for persons with intellectual disabilities
- Sheltered workshops for persons with intellectual disabilities
- Dormitories for employees with intellectual disabilities
- Welfare facilities set up by the Welfare Association for Persons with Intellectual and Physical Disabilities
- Home-based care and other programs for persons with intellectual disabilities
- Adult day-care services for persons with intellectual disabilities
- Short stay program for persons with intellectual disabilities
- Group homes for persons with intellectual disabilities

### **(3) Children's Welfare Law**

- Home-based care and other programs for children with disabilities
- Day services for children with disabilities
- Short stay program for children with intellectual disabilities

## **II. Education System**

1. Children with disabilities who are unable to reach their full potential with a guidance in a regular classroom setting can receive instruction tailored to their individual needs. Under the Fundamental Education Law, the following options are provided for in addition to special education classes.

- (1) School for the blind

These schools, which aim to provide children with visual impairments with the necessary knowledge and skills, offer programs at the kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school levels. Prefectural governments are in charge of their establishment. Presently, there are 71 schools for the blind, with 3,882 students.

- (2) Schools for the deaf

These schools, which aim to provide children with hearing impairments with the necessary knowledge and skills, offer programs at the kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school levels. Prefectural governments are in charge of their establishment. Presently, there are 106 schools for the deaf, with 6,705 students.

- (3) Schools for children with orthopedic, intellectual disabilities and health impairments

These schools, which aim to provide children with orthopedic, intellectual disabilities and health impairments with the necessary knowledge and skills, offer programs at the kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, and senior high school levels. Prefectural governments are in charge of their establishment. At present there are 818 schools for children with disabilities, with 85,886 students.

2. In March 2003 Committee on Special Support Education under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology released a report on the future direction of education for children with special needs based on the fact that the trend for children enrolled at special schools to have more severe, multiple disabilities,

and the growing demand for programs that meet the needs of children with learning disabilities (LD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), high-functioning autism at regular schools.

The outline of the report was that a shift be made away from “special education” based on the degree of a student’s disability undertaken in a separate setting to “specially assisted education“ or “integrated learning” in an inclusive setting, with the educational needs of individual students taken into account within that structure. At present, reforms are being undertaken in line with the report’s recommendations.

### III. Government Measures of Employment and Work

#### 1. Employment Quota System

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

Legally stipulated employment quotas (As of July 1, 1998)

Private companies	<u>Regular private companies</u>	1.8%
	<u>Specialized juridical person</u>	2.1%
Central and local government public entities		
	<u>Central and local government bodies</u>	2.1%
	<u>Board of Education in prefectures *</u>	2.0%

\* Prefectural boards of education and other boards of education designated by the minister of health, labor and welfare.

Persons with severe physical disabilities or severe intellectual 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, a decision made for the purpose of encouraging their employment.

## **2. Levy and Grant System**

In order to alleviate the financial burden incurred by employers who employ persons with disabilities and further raise the employment standard of persons with disabilities, levies are collected from firms with 301 or more employees that have not met the quota. “Adjustment allowance” and incentives are provided to firms that have met the quota or as grants to employers and others who establish or improve work facilities for persons with disabilities or hire job coaches to oversee the employment of persons with severe disabilities.

### **【Collection of Levies】**

Employers with 300 regular workers or less who fail to employ the legally required number of persons with disabilities. ※ ¥50,000 per person per month

#### **● Payment of Adjustment Allowance**

※ ¥27,000 per person per month

#### **● Payment of rewards**

※ ¥21,000 per person per month in excess of a fixed number (equivalent to the accumulative number, in the fiscal year, of 4 % of regular workers per month, or 72 persons, whichever is greater.)

#### **● Payment of Grant for**

Provision of workplace facilities, etc for persons with disabilities

Provision of facilities, etc for persons with disabilities

Workplace attendants for persons with disabilities

Commuting measures for persons with disabilities

Provision of facilities, etc. in enterprises employing a large number of persons with disabilities

Skill development of persons with disabilities

Employment Support Centers for persons with disabilities, etc.

**(1) Vocational rehabilitation at Comprehensive Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities**

There are three types of comprehensive vocational centers for persons with disabilities

**1) National Institute of Vocational Rehabilitation (NIVR, Chiba City)**

NIVR serves as the core facility for all vocational rehabilitation centers, undertaking a high level of research and development on vocational rehabilitation skills, disseminating the results of research, and training specialists.

**2) Large Region vocational centers for persons with disabilities**

Regional vocational centers work closely with vocational schools for persons with disabilities and medical institutions to provide comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services for a large geographical area.

- National Vocational Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities (Saitama Prefecture)
- National Kibi-Kogen Vocational Rehabilitation Center (Okayama Prefecture)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Spinal Cord Injuries (Fukuoka Prefecture)

**3) Local vocational centers for persons with disabilities**

Local vocational centers, of which there are one in every prefecture, work closely with Public Employment Security Offices (PESO) to provide specialized and comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services ranging from consultations for persons with disabilities to follow-up at the workplace. They also dispatch job coaches to corporations, provide support to help persons with disabilities adapt to their jobs, and organize programs for hiring persons with disabilities first time on a trial basis.

**(2) Vocational and Ability Development School for Persons with Disabilities**

These schools offer training tailored to the needs of persons with disabilities who are not able to partake of vocational training programs organized by public job resource development centers.

## **IV. An Overview of Income Maintenance for Persons with Disabilities**

### **1. Pension Insurance**

Pension insurance is a system issuing pension to cover old age and disablement. With the enactment of the National Pension Law in 1959, the entire population of Japan became eligible for coverage, including the self-employed and individuals enrolled in the Employees' Pension. Benefits comprise the Old Age Basic Pension, Basic Disability Pension, Basic Pensions that are part of the basic survivors' pension, supplemental pension, lump-sum payments upon death, and non-contributory Old Age Pension as an interim measure.

### **2. Disability Pension**

Payments from Basic Disability Pension vary according to the degree of disability, such as ¥993,100 per year for grade one disability, and ¥794,500 for grade two disability (as of 2004 fiscal year). If the persons who receive Basic Disability Pension is also raising a child of under age of 18 years, suffering from severe disability), allowances for this child will be added. This accounts to ¥228,600 per child per year up to and including the second child, and ¥76,200 for the third child and thereafter. The aforementioned pension and child addition remain unchanged whether the disability occurred prior to joining prior to the age of 20 years. In the latter case however, payments are not made when the persons with disabilities reach up to the income above a certain specified level.

### **3. Allowance for Persons with Disabilities**

A Special Allowance for Persons with Disabilities is paid out to those of age of 20 years and over with degrees of disabilities requiring special care and attention in daily life due to serious disability either intellectual or physical. The amount is ¥26,520 per month. This allowance is not paid to those who are cared at institutions, or whose incomes or whose family incomes exceed a specified amount.

### **4. Allowance for Children with Disabilities**

Welfare Allowance for Children with Disabilities is paid in the case of children with severe disabilities of under age of 20 years, a monthly sum of ¥14,430. There is a

system of Special Child Rearing Allowance of under age of 20 years. With the exception of children being cared for institutions, ¥50,900 per month for those with severe disabilities (grade one), and ¥33,900 per month for those with moderate disabilities (grade two) is paid. And under the System for Benefit for Rearing of Persons with Intellectual and Physical Disabilities, a life annuity is paid to persons with disabilities after their parents or custodian dies, when the parents or custodian made monthly contributions to the program while they were alive. Annuity of 20,000 yen or 40,000 yen is paid depending on the size of the contribution.

## Chapter 7

### Basic Resources

#### I. Major Government Measures for Persons with Disabilities

	Main measures	Relevant legislation
Cabinet Office	Formulation of the Basic Plan for Persons with Disabilities, awareness raising and public relations (Disabled Persons' Week, special gatherings, regional conferences to promote measures for persons with disabilities, programs to promote public awareness of persons with disabilities)	Fundamental Law for Disabled Persons
National Police Agency	Audible traffic signals for persons with visual impairments are installed, exception to the no-parking rule, consultation on driving aptitude, etc.	Law on Infrastructure Plans, Law on Equipping Traffic Safety Facilities, Road Traffic Law, etc.
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	Reduction of and exemption from NHK broadcast subscription fees, Automated Telling Machines (ATM) for persons with visual impairments are installed, provision of welfare telephone, etc. Consideration on taxes (Local Tax.)	Broadcast Law, Cable Television Broadcast Law, Telecommunications Service Law, Law for Promoting Businesses that Facilitate the Use of Communications and Broadcast Services by the Physically Disabled Persons Local Tax Law
Ministry of Justice	Establishment of human rights consultation offices in each bureau and in district legal affairs and branch bureaus	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Technical cooperation in the rehabilitation related field for persons with disabilities	Japan International Cooperation Agency Law
Ministry of Finance	Measures for taxation (national tax)	Income Tax Law, Consumption Tax Law, Inheritance Tax Law, Special Measures Act concerning Temporary Tax Law, Customs Tariff Law, etc.

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology	Special support education Commission for development of medical and technical equipments to be used at school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Education Law</li> <li>• Law for Encouragement of School Attendance at Special Schools for Blind Persons, Deaf Persons, Physically Disabled Persons, Intellectually Disabled Persons</li> <li>• School Health Law</li> </ul>
Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention of the cause of disabilities, early detection and treatment, various welfare measures, public assistance, medical care</li> <li>• Employment measures, vocational training, compensation of industrial accidents</li> </ul>	<p>Maternal and Child Health Law, Child Welfare Law, Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons, Law for the Welfare of Intellectually Disabled Persons, Law Concerning Mental Health and Welfare for Mentally Disabled Persons, Special Child Rearing Allowance Law, Law for Special Aid to Wounded and Sick Veterans, Daily Life Security Law, National Pension Law, Employees' Pension Law, National Health Insurance Law, etc.</p> <p>Law for Employment Promotion, etc. of the Disabled Persons, Employment Countermeasures Law, Employment Insurance Law, Human Resources Development Promotion Law, Workmen's Accident Compensation Insurance Law, etc.</p>
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	Improvements to the eating habits and the living environment of farming, fishing, and mountain villages that take into account the needs of persons with disabilities	
Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry	Development of welfare related technical devices, equipment standardization	Law on Industrial Standardization, Law for Promotion of Research, Development and the Distribution of Technical Aids and Equipment
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport	<p>Improvement of public transportation</p> <p>Provision of public housing for persons with disabilities, prioritizing for getting into public housings, improvement of government facilities, public buildings, and roads, discount of fees for using toll highways, etc.</p> <p>System for Permission of developing emergency care and other facilities in areas prone to landslides</p>	<p>Law to Facilitate the Use of Public Transportation by Elderly and Disabled Persons, Law for Buildings Accessible to and Usable by the Elderly and Physically Disabled Persons, Public Housing Law, Urban Development Corporation Byelaws, Government Housing Loan Corporation Law</p> <p>Law to Promote Natural Disaster Preventative Measures in Areas Prone to Landslides</p>

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	Improvements to the eating habits and the living environment of farming, fishing, and mountain villages that take into account the needs of persons with disabilities	
Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry	Development of welfare related technical devices, equipment standardization	Law on Industrial Standardization, Law for Promotion of Research, Development and the Distribution of Technical Aids and Equipment
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport	Improvement of public transportation Provision of public housing for persons with disabilities, prioritizing for getting into public housings, improvement of government facilities, public buildings, and roads, discount of fees for using toll highways, etc. System for Permission of developing emergency care and other facilities in areas prone to landslides	Law to Facilitate the Use of Public Transportation by Elderly and Disabled Persons, Law for Buildings Accessible to and Usable by the Elderly and Physically Disabled Persons Public Housing Law, Urban Development Corporation Byelaws, Government Housing Loan Corporation Law Law to Promote Natural Disaster Preventative Measures in Areas Prone to Landslides

## II. The Actual Conditions of Persons with Disabilities in Japan

### 1. Number of persons with physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities

		Total number	Number of persons at home	Number of persons in institutions
Children and adults with physical disabilities (*Source 1)		3, 516,000	3,327,000	189,000
	Children with physical disabilities (under the age of 18)	90,000	82,000	8,000
	Adults with physical disabilities (18 years of age or over)	3,426,000	3,245,000	181,000
Adults and children with intellectual disabilities (*Source 2)		459,000	329,000	130,000
	Children with intellectual disabilities (under the age of 18 years)	103,000	94,000	9,000
	Adults with intellectual disabilities (18 years of age or over)	342,000	221,000	121,000
	Age unknown	14,000	14,000	0
Persons with psychiatric disabilities (*Source 3)		2,584,000	2,239,000	345,000
Total number		6,559,000	5,895,000	664,000

#### Notes

- Adults and children with physical disabilities who are residents of institutions include those living in facilities for blind children, facilities for deaf children, facilities for children with orthopedic disabilities, facilities for children with both severe intellectual and physical disabilities, facilities for rehabilitation and care of persons with physical disabilities, etc.
- Adults and children with intellectual disabilities who are residents of institutions include those living in facilities for children with intellectual disabilities, facilities for children with autism, facilities for children with both severe intellectual and physical disabilities, National Sanatorium (with special wards for children with both severe intellectual and physical disabilities), rehabilitation centers for persons with intellectual

disabilities, and residential sheltered workshops for persons with intellectual disabilities.

3. The number of persons with psychiatric disabilities comprises patients with a mental and other such disorders. The number residing in institutions comprises all such patients who are hospitalized.

Sources:

1. Persons living at home: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Survey on the Actual Status of Children and Adults with Physical Disabilities," 2001.  
Persons in facilities: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Survey of Social Welfare Institutions' 2000, etc."
2. Persons living at home: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Basic Survey for the Policy of the Welfare of Children (Adults) with Intellectual Disabilities" 2000.  
Persons in facilities: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Survey of Social Welfare institutions' 2000, etc."
3. Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Survey of Patients" 2002.

## 2. Breakdown of persons with physical disabilities by type of disability and gender

Type of disability	Total	Gender		
		Male	Female	Gender unknown
Total	3,245,000(100.0%)	1,779,000(54.8%)	1,423,000(43.9%)	44,000(1.4%)
Visual Impairment	301,000 (100.0%)	154,000 (51.2%)	142,000 (47.2%)	5,000 (1.7%)
Hearing and speech impairment	346,000 (100.0%)	164,000 (47.4%)	176,000 (50.9%)	6,000(1.7%)
Hearing impairment	305,000 (100.0%)	135,000 (44.3%)	165,000 (54.1%)	5,000 (1.6%)
Impairment of balance function	7,000 (100.0%)	3,000 (42.9%)	4,000 (57.1%)	- ( - )
Impairment of voice, speech and mastication function	34,000 (100.0%)	26,000 (76.5%)	6,000 (17.6%)	1,000 (2.9%)
Impairments of limbs or trunk	1,749,000 (100.0%)	940,000 (53.7%)	787,000 (45.0%)	22,000 (1.3%)
Amputation of upper limb	98,000 (100.0%)	72,000 (73.5%)	24,000 (24.5%)	2,000 (2.0%)
Upper limb functional disorder	479,000 (100.0%)	287,000 (59.9%)	186,000 (38.8%)	6,000 (1.3%)
Amputation of lower limb	49,000 (100.0%)	34,000 (69.4%)	15,000 (30.6%)	- ( - )
Lower limb functional disorder	563,000 (100.0%)	247,000 (43.9%)	310,000 (55.1%)	6,000 (1.1%)
Trunk functional disorder	167,000 (100.0%)	96,000 (57.5%)	68,000 (40.7%)	2,000 (1.2%)

Mobility disorder caused by brain damage/cerebral palsy	60,000 (100.0%)	32,000 (53.3%)	27,000 (45.0%)	1,000 (1.7%)
Mobility disorder affecting multiple limbs and trunk	333,000 (100.0%)	172,000 (51.7%)	157,000 (47.1%)	3,000 (0.9%)
Internal Disorders	849,000 (100.0%)	521,000 (61.4%)	318,000 (37.5%)	11,000 (1.3%)
Cardiac impairment	463,000 (100.0%)	269,000 (58.1%)	188,000 (40.6%)	6,000 (1.3%)
Respiratory impairment	89,000 (100.0%)	63,000 (70.8%)	24,000 (27.0%)	2,000 (2.2%)
Renal (kidney) impairment	202,000 (100.0%)	128,000 (63.4%)	73,000 (36.1%)	1,000 (0.5%)
Bladder and rectum impairment	91,000 (100.0%)	58,000 (63.7%)	31,000 (34.1%)	1,000 (1.1%)
Small intestine impairment	3,000(100.0%)	1,000 (33.3%)	1,000 (33.3%)	- (-)
Immune function disorder caused by human immunodeficiency virus	2,000 (100.0%)	1,000 (50.0%)	1,000 (50.0%)	- (-)
Multiple impairments (double count)	175,000 (100.0%)	107,000 (61.1%)	66,000 (37.7%)	2,000 (1.1%)

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Survey on Actual Status of Children and Adults with Physical Disabilities," 2001.

### 3. Breakdown of persons with physical disabilities by type and degree of disability

	Total number	Grade one	Grade two	Grade three	Grade four	Grade five	Grade six	Grade unknown
Total number	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%)
Limb/trunk impairment	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 disorder	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 impairment (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%)

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare, "Survey on the Actual Status of Children and Adults with Physical Disabilities," 2001.

### 4. Breakdown of persons with intellectual disabilities by degree of disability

	Total number	Profound	Severe	Moderate	Mild	Degree unknown
Total number	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%)
Adults 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%)

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor, and, Welfare, "Basic Survey for the Policy of the Welfare of Children (Adults) with Intellectual Disabilities," 2000.

**5. Breakdown of persons with intellectual disabilities by age and gender**

	Total number	Males	Females	Gender unknown
Total number	329,200 (100.0%)	184,500 (56.0%)	130,900 (39.8%)	13,800 (4.2%)
Age				
0—4 years	12,400	7,800	4,600	-
5—9 years	30,100	19,600	10,400	-
10—14 years	33,100	20,000	12,600	400
15—19 years	33,600	21,400	12,000	200
20—29 years	79,800	45,500	33,500	800
30—39 years	50,700	27,700	22,100	1,000
40—49 years	37,700	21,300	16,200	200
50—59 years	22,500	12,400	9,600	400
60 years or older	14,800	7,000	7,600	200
Age unknown	14,400	1,600	2,200	10,600

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor, and, Welfare, “Basic Survey for the Policy of Children (Adults) with Intellectual Disabilities,” 2000.

### III. Education of Children with Disabilities

Number of schools for students with disabilities; number of students and staffs at these schools (As of May 1, 2003)

Type of school		Number of schools	Number of students				Full-time teachers	Full-time staffs
			Preschool division	Elementary school division	Junior high school division	High school division	Total number	
School for the blind		71	272	639	508	2,463	3,882	3,401
School for the deaf		106	1,430	2,092	1,171	2,012	6,705	4,915
Special School	School for children with intellectual disabilities	523	70	18,444	14,147	30,721	63,382	34,429
	Schools for children with physical disabilities	199	72	7,701	4,434	6,330	18,537	14,754
	Schools for Children with health impairments	96	3	1,437	1,382	1,145	3,967	3,595
	Total	818	145	27,582	19,963	38,196	85,886	52,778
Total		995	1,847	30,313	21,642	42,671	96,473	61,094

Source: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology

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