



Here, other types of welfare will be explained: child welfare, the long-term care insurance system, welfare for persons with disabilities and social security. We will introduce mainly national systems, but depending on the region, kinds of service peculiar to that region are often carried out, so for more specific information, please enquire at your municipal administrative office or welfare office.

1 Child welfare

The following benefits are provided for the upbringing of children. There are many cases where benefits systems peculiar to a municipality are available, so for details please enquire at your municipal administrative office's relevant department, such as the child welfare department.

1-1 Child allowance

This is a national system whereby an allowance is provided to carers who are bringing up children until the completion of their junior high school education (the first March 31 after the child's 15th birthday). There are restrictions depending on income. (Please refer to [H Childbirth/childcare, 3-4 Child allowance](#))

As a general principle, child allowance is paid only for residents in Japan; however, if your child studies abroad, etc., the payment may be provided.

1-2 Child support allowance

This is a national system whereby an allowance is provided to a single-parent household. This will be paid until the first 31 March following the child's 18th birthday; in the case of a child with a severe degree of disability, this will be the 20th birthday. The child support allowance is also paid to households where the father or mother is severely disabled. There are restrictions depending on income.

1-3 Special child support allowance

This is a national system whereby an allowance is provided to the father, mother or carer bringing up a child under the age of 20 with a certain degree of mental or physical disability. There are restrictions depending on income, and the allowance is not paid in cases where the child is placed in an institution such as an institution for orthopedically impaired children with birth defects or an institution for children with intellectual disabilities.

1-4 Allowance for children with disabilities

This is a national system whereby an allowance is provided to persons living at home under the age of 20 who require constant care in their everyday lives due to severe mental or physical disability. There are restrictions depending on income.



1 Child welfare

1-5 Medical subsidy systems for severely mentally and physically disabled persons

This assists with the individual financial burden paid by persons (children) with severe mental and physical disabilities that are within the scope of the Health Insurance Law. The range of people this applies to varies depending on the municipality.

1-6 Other assistance for bringing up children

There are various types (refer to [H Childbirth/childcare](#), [3 Cost of childbirth and benefits](#) and [5 Childcare](#)).

● Chart listing benefits relating to child welfare

Type of service	Eligible persons/contents	Remarks
Child allowance	Carers who are bringing up children until the completion of their junior high school education (the first March 31 after the child's 15th birthday)	There are restrictions depending on income
Child support allowance	Households with single parents (including those where the father or mother is severely disabled) or without parents, and those who look after a child (until the first March 31 after the child's 18 th birthday or under the age of 20 with a certain degree of disability).	There are restrictions depending on income
Special child support allowance	Father, mother or carer bringing up a child under the age of 20 with a certain degree of mental or physical disability * Except for cases where the child is placed in an institution such as an institution for orthopedically impaired children or an institution for children with intellectual disabilities	There are restrictions depending on income
Allowance for children with disabilities	Persons under the age of 20 who live at home and require constant care in daily life due to a severe mental or physical disability.	There are restrictions depending on income
Medical subsidy systems for severely mentally and physically disabled persons	Persons who are Class 1, 2 or 3 in the Identification Booklet for the Physically Disabled, or who possess Part A or some with B of the Medical Treatment Booklet	—

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*Varies depending on the municipality	* In the case of persons who are Class 3 of the Identification Booklet for the Physically Disabled, there are restrictions depending on income	
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2 Long-term care insurance system

The long-term care insurance system is a system whereby society as a whole supports elderly people and persons requiring care (persons requiring assistance) when long-term care becomes necessary due to old age. Under this scheme, persons over the age of 40 become participants in the system and pool their insurance costs; they are then able to make use of care services by bearing 10% (as a general principle) of the costs when they are accredited as needing care.

2-1 Participants and insurance contributions

(1) For people aged 40 or older

This system is covered by insurance contributions and taxes. Persons over 65, and all persons between 40 and 64 who are participants in medical insurance (national health insurance, health insurance), pay the insurance contributions.

Therefore, foreign residents to whom the Basic Registration system applies and are above age of 40 also enter the long-term care insurance system. Furthermore, even those people who on entering Japan for a stay of not more than 3 months and to whom the Basic Registration system does not apply, but if after entering the country they are permitted to stay more than 3 months, the person may enter the insurance system depending on the discretion of the municipality (for people 40–64 years old, the discretion of their medical insurer).

Type 1 insured persons (participants): all citizens over the age of 65

Type 2 insured persons (participants): All persons between 40 and 64 who have entered into medical insurance

(2) Insurance contributions

Type 1 insured persons' (participants) insurance contributions are set by the municipality according to their municipal tax status. For type 2 insured persons (participants), there is a scheme whereby they pay on top of medical insurance contributions such as national health insurance contributions. The monetary amount of the insurance contributions will vary depending on the medical insurance that has been entered into.



2 Long-term care insurance system

2-2 How to receive long-term care services

(1) Under what circumstances?

You can receive long-term care services only when long-term care has become necessary after the age of 65, or due to specified diseases caused by aging (16 types) which occur between age 40 and 64 years old.

(2) Accreditation of the need for long-term care or assistance

In order to receive long-term care services, you need to submit an application to your municipal administrative office, and receive a “long-term care accreditation” regarding the degree of your need for long-term care. When the application has been received and the accreditation survey carried out, a judgment on the degree of your need for long-term care is reached at the Long-Term Care Accreditation Committee based on these results and on the written opinion of a physician (7 levels of accreditation : need for assistance1-2, and need for long-term care levels 1-5)



2 Long-term care insurance system

(3) List of long-term care insurance services

Please enquire at the administrative office or welfare office of the municipality where you live for the contents of these care services.

	Home-visit Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visiting care-giving - Visiting nursing - Visiting bath - Care-giving support at home etc.
	Non-resident Facility Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care-giving at facility - Rehabilitation at facility etc.
	Short-stay Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care-giving for short-stay at facility etc.
	Residence (Communal Home) Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care-giving for those with dementia living as a community - Care-giving for those living in special facilities etc.
	Special Facility Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welfare-care facility with care-giving for elderly people - Health-care facility with care-giving for elderly people etc.



3 Welfare for persons with disabilities

There are many measures taken to assist persons with disabilities to be independent and to participate in society.

3-1 About various identification booklets

Persons with disabilities should get an Identification Booklet for the Physically Disabled.

Persons with delays in intellectual development should get a Medical Treatment Booklet.

Persons with mental illnesses who have restrictions in their everyday and social lives should get an Identification Booklet for the Mentally Disabled.

If you have this booklet, you can make use of various support systems, and can receive tax deductions and transportation expense discounts.

3-2 Administrative services for persons with disabilities

Type of service	Contents
Subsidization of medical expenses	Subsidization covering part of treatment expenses (depending on the degree of the disability and the contents of the treatment)
Issuance and repair of equipment	Issuance, repair and loan of wheelchairs, artificial limbs, hearing aids and safety canes for the blind (depending on the degree of the disability and the person's living circumstances)
Payment of allowance	Payment of an allowance to severely disabled persons who have not entered a welfare institution (depending on the description and degree of the disability)

Some local authorities may have their own support system.

3-3 Welfare institutions

There are institutions which provide training and support to persons with disabilities.



4 Livelihood protection

4-1 What is livelihood protection?

This is a system which provides necessary care to persons who are having problems in their lives because their income is reduced or they have lost income, and to the families of such persons, to guarantee the minimum standards of wholesome and cultured living and to support their independence.

Before receiving livelihood protection, each person needs to have utilized his or her assets and ability and have tried to use the possible systems.

As a general principle, whether livelihood protection is needed and to what degree (how much to be paid) is judged on a household unit basis. The household of a foreigner living in Japan who is either a permanent resident, long-term resident, spouse or child of Japanese national, spouse or child of a permanent resident, special permanent resident or refugee stated in the Immigration Act may be able to receive the same livelihood protection payment as Japanese citizens.

For details please enquire at your municipal administrative office.



4 Livelihood protection

4-2 Types of benefits

The following kinds of benefits are available as part of livelihood protection; these will be provided according to need.

• Types of livelihood protection

Types of benefits	Contents
Living benefits	Necessary expenses required for everyday living (food, clothing and energy costs, etc.)
Housing benefits	Necessary expenses for rent, land rent, maintenance of housing and other necessary expenses to maintain housing, deposit, etc. to move house.
Education benefits	Necessary expenses for compulsory education such as school meals and school items
Medical benefits	Expenses for receiving treatment at medical institutions, medicines, transportation to go to hospital, spectacles, etc.
Long-term care benefits	Expenses for receiving long-term care
Occupational Benefits	Expenses for acquiring skills required to find jobs and enrolling in senior high school, etc.
Childbirth benefits	Expenses for giving birth
Funeral benefits	Expenses for funerals, etc.
Extraordinary benefits	Expenses for clothing such as diapers, sleeping clothes, expenses for moving house, expenses for cooking and eating implements lost in disasters, special transportation expenses, preparation expenses for entering elementary/junior high school
Other backup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Exemption from insurance contributions for national pension insurance▪ Exemption from NHK broadcasting reception fees