

2023 Social Welfare and Public Health in Tokyo

Promoting social welfare, public health and medical care policies seamlessly and comprehensively



Make Tokyo a city in which everyone can maintain active and fulfilled lives!

In Tokyo, following the development of a declining birthrate and aging population, a rapid change in the social structure is predicted going forward, with the population entering a decline that will result in one in every four Tokyo residents being elderly, aged 65 or older, in 2035.

Further, there are also concerns about the impacts that the long-term continuation of COVID-19, the sense of uncertainty regarding the current international situation, and other issues will have on the feeling of security and the lives of Tokyo residents.

In addition, the experiences following the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Kumamoto Earthquakes, Typhoon Hagibis in October 2019, etc. indicate the importance of taking measures such as maintaining medical care functions when disasters occur and providing support for the elderly and people with disabilities who require special consideration in times of disaster.

Under these conditions, in order to realize a society in which metropolitan area residents can live their lives with peace of mind into the future, it is necessary to implement activities to realize comprehensive social welfare, public health, and medical care services while adopting a medium- to long-term perspective based on the results of implementing previous projects and programs. It is also necessary to make swift and appropriate responses to rapid changes in the socioeconomic environment and to urgent and unexpected situations such as earthquakes, and to develop effective policies.

To achieve these aims, the following types of policies will be pursued under the highest priority in FY2023.

Firstly, in the fields of child/family, the elderly, people with disabilities, and livelihood welfare, the TMG pursues policies intended to support independent living in the community. It conducts activities to realize seamless child-rearing support from the pregnancy period, enhancement of daycare services, building of regional comprehensive care systems, development of facilities and other homes supporting the various needs of the elderly, provision of comprehensive infrastructures, etc. required to enable people with disabilities to live in the community with peace of mind, support for low-income earners and displaced workers that will allow them to live securely, and comprehensive measures to secure, retain and train social welfare human resources.

Secondly, in the fields of health and medical care, the TMG pursues policies aiming to realize an environment that allows residents to receive high quality medical care and live in good health. It implements activities to develop an environment that can provide in-home medical care, develop medical care delivery systems including for emergency and disaster medical care and for child and perinatal period medical care, as well as securing and improving the quality of the medical care human resources required to support these systems.

In addition, the TMG promotes health by working to improve cancer screening diagnosis rates and strives to develop comprehensive suicide prevention measures, etc.

Thirdly, in the fields of public health and safety, the TMG pursues policies to protect metropolitan area residents from ever-diversifying public health crises. It continues to implement activities including infectious disease countermeasures against COVID-19 while maintaining the safety of foods, pharmaceuticals, the living environment, drinking water, etc. and aiming to realize an inclusive city which achieves harmony between people and animals.

In addition to these policies, the TMG will efficiently and effectively pursue various policies which match the needs of metropolitan area residents from a broad-based perspective while utilizing private sector, regional and administrative powers to the maximum extent.

Going forward, the TMG will continue to actively develop social welfare, public health, and medical care policies which are suitable for Tokyo as a major city, and will conduct activities to realize a city that will let everyone live active and fulfilled lives.

April 2023

Cover photographs

(Top left) Highest awarded entries in the FY2022 "Barrier-free Mindset" public awareness-raising poster competition

(Top right) Visit by the Tokyo Governor to congratulate persons newly celebrating their 100th birthday (in an online format)

(Bottom left) "Metropolitan bus advertising" during Mosquito Breeding Prevention Enhancement Month (in June)

(Bottom right) Mascot character "OSEKKAI-kun" for promoting child abuse prevention (right)

Mascot character "Satopen Family" for promoting foster parents systems (left)

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