

# Initiatives for Welfare of Persons with Disabilities in Okinawa



Health and Welfare Division for People with Disabilities  
Health and Welfare Bureau  
Okinawa Prefecture

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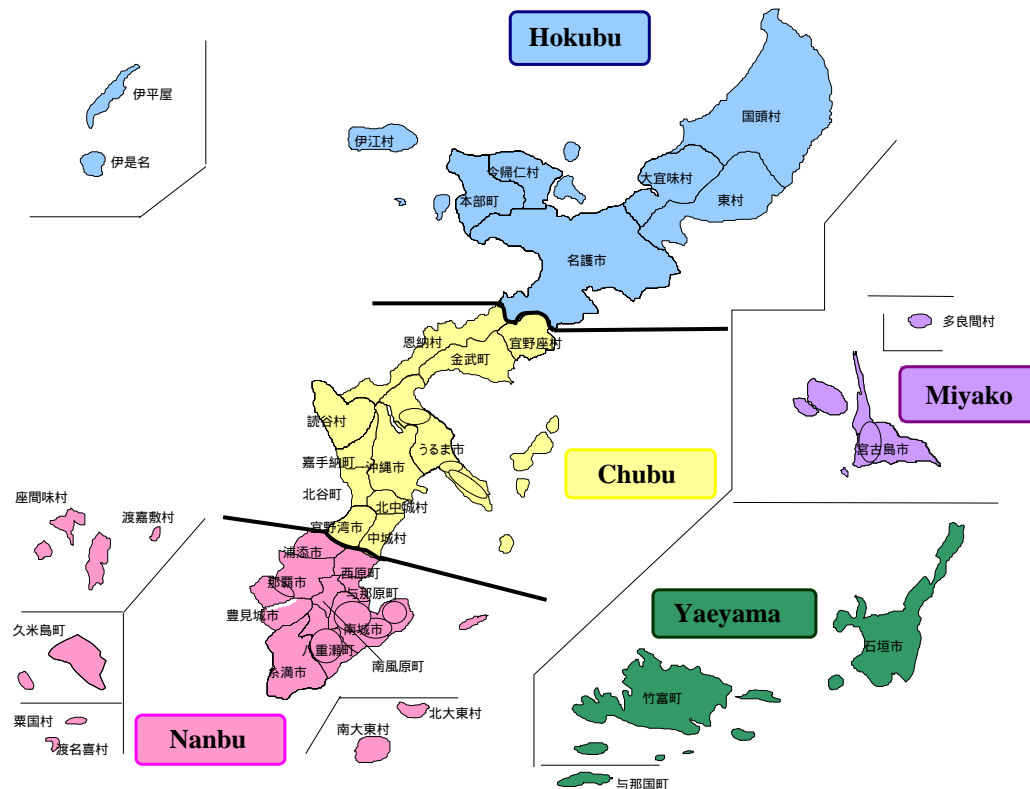
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# I Okinawa Profile

## 1. Distinctive Features



- Located on the southwestern edge of Japan, Okinawa prefecture is a group of about 160 large and small islands scattered over an area measuring 1,000 km east to west, and 400 km north to south.

- The total land area of the prefecture is about 2,271 km<sup>2</sup>, making it the 44<sup>th</sup> largest in Japan.

- With its subtropical ocean climate, Okinawa is warm year-round. It has plentiful greenery and is home to many precious species of plants and animals.

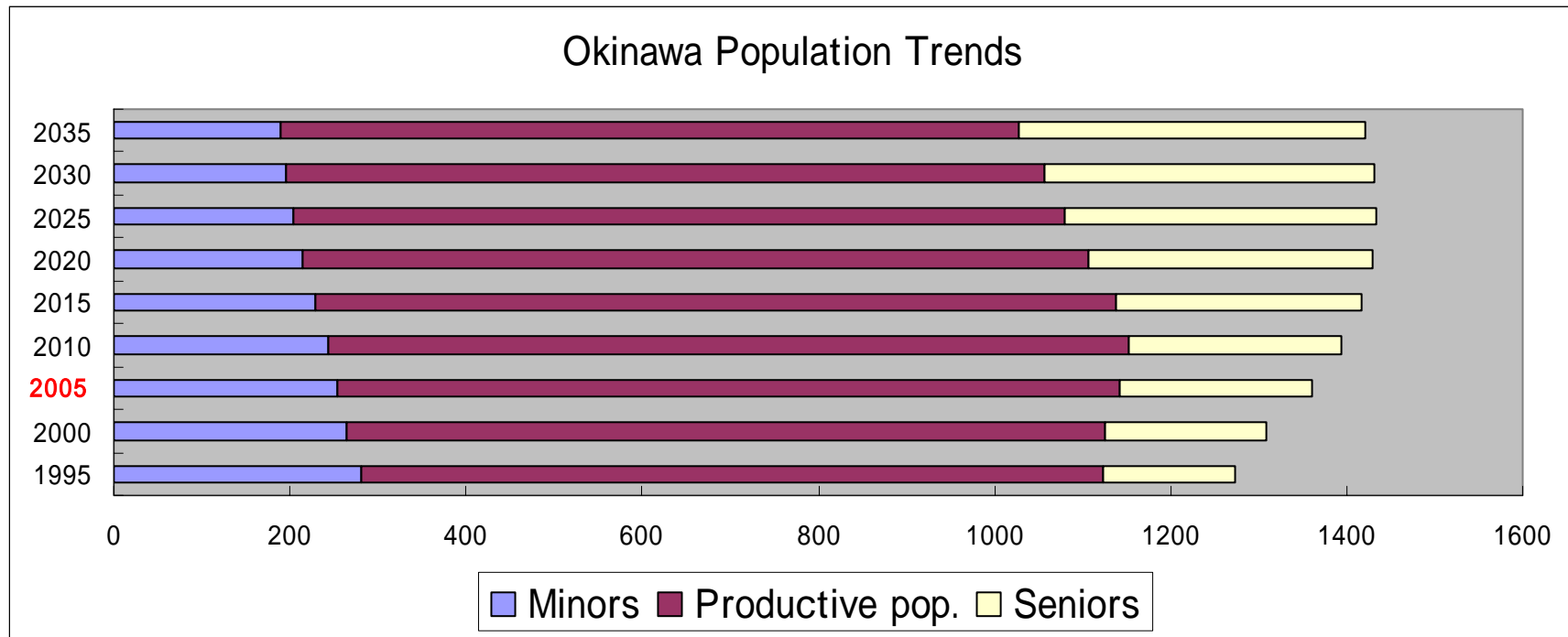
- The tourism and resort industry is the leading industry of Okinawa.

- Although the population of Japan is shrinking nationwide with the exception of large cities, Okinawa has a high population growth rate, and young people make up a sizeable proportion of the population.

- About 75% of all US military installations in Japan are concentrated in Okinawa.

- Okinawa has the disadvantages inherent in being an island prefecture that is distant from the mainland.

## 2. Future Population Trends in Okinawa Prefecture



Okinawa Population									<i>Thousands of people</i>	
Year	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	
Total population	1,273	1,318	1,362	1,394	1,416	1,429	1,433	1,431	1,422	
Minors	281	264	254	243	229	214	203	196	189	
Productive population	843	862	888	910	910	892	876	860	838	
Seniors	149	183	219	241	277	323	354	375	395	

Sources: 1995, 2000, and 2005 national censuses; figures for 2010 and beyond from National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, "Future Population Estimates by Prefecture (May 2007 Estimates)"

### 3. Status of People with Physical Disabilities in Okinawa

Numbers of registered persons with disabilities (by disability)

Disability	Year	1995	2000	2005	2007
Seeing disabilities		4,150	4,409	4,197	4,330
Hearing disabilities		4,277	5,192	6,177	6,744
Speech and language disabilities		588	702	745	772
Physical (mobility) disabilities (Upper limbs, lower limbs, trunk)		21,634	25,846	27,252	28,973
Internal functional disabilities (heart, kidneys, respiratory organs, bladder/rectum, small intestine, immune system)		7,830	12,492	17,416	20,643
Total		38,479	48,641	55,787	61,462
Population of Okinawa				1,361,594	
Proportion of population (Okinawa)				4.10%	

## 4. Status of People with Mental Handicaps in Okinawa

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Status of Registered Persons with Mental Handicaps (by degree of disability)

Disability \ Year	1995	2000	2005	2007
Most severe levels (A1 & A2)	2,049	2,409	3,238	3,656
Intermediate severity (B1 & B2)	4,172	5,217	6,406	7,126
Total	6,221	7,626	9,644	10,782
Population of Okinawa			1,361,594	
Proportion of population (Okinawa)			0.71%	

## 5. Status of People with Mental Illnesses in Okinawa

Status of Registered Persons with Mental Illnesses (by severity)

Severity \ Year	2000	2005	2007
Level 1	296	710	1,171
Level 2	982	2,996	3,518
Level 3	139	753	852
Total	1,417	4,459	5,541
Population of Okinawa		1,361,594	
Proportion of population (Okinawa)		0.33%	

Numbers of patients hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment (as of end-June each year)

Category \ Year	2000	2005	2007
Hospitalized	5,424	5,320	5,229
Outpatient treatment	21,863	31,171	34,736
Total	27,287	36,491	39,965
Population of Okinawa		1,361,594	
Proportion of population (Okinawa)		2.68%	

## II Health and Welfare Measures for People With Disabilities

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- ❑ The **Third Okinawa Health and Welfare Medical Plan (OHWMP)**, which determines the direction of the administration of health and welfare, falls under the umbrella of the **Okinawa Promotion Plan**, which determines the overall direction of government measures for the prefecture of Okinawa. The disability health and welfare measures in the OHWMP are placed in the categories of creating an environment where people with disabilities can be active, and promoting public health.
- ❑ Individual medical, health, and welfare projects for persons with disabilities are being advanced in partnership with related labor, educational, and other organizations, based on the targets of the **Third Okinawa Prefecture Basic Plan for People with Disabilities**, which is in accordance with the Disabled Persons Fundamental Law, and the **Welfare plan for People with Disabilities, Phase 2**, which is in accordance with the Law to Encourage Self-Reliance Among the Handicapped.

*See [Reference 1] for the relationships between each plan in Okinawa*

# 1. Third Okinawa Prefecture Basic Plan for People with Disabilities

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- First, let's examine the Third Okinawa Prefecture Basic Plan for People with Disabilities. This plan serves as the foundation for measures for people with disabilities in Okinawa, and is one of the basic prefectural plans for people with disabilities.

# What is the Significance of the Basic Prefectural Plans for People with Disabilities?

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## Basic prefectural plans for people with disabilities:

- are based in the **national government**'s basic plan for people with disabilities (which relates to measures for people with disabilities, with the goal of promoting the welfare of people with disabilities and preventing disabilities, in a **comprehensive** and **planned** manner);
- are basic plans relating to measures for people with disabilities in Japan's various prefectures, created by the **government of that prefecture**; and
- serve as the foundation for basic plans relating to people with disabilities in each prefecture's various municipalities, created by **the government of that municipality**.

# Overview of the Third Okinawa Prefecture Basic Plan for People with Disabilities

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## Basic Approach to Formulating the Plan

- ❑ The plan's goal is to carry on the philosophy of **normalization** that has been followed to date, and create a society where this is possible.
- ❑ It advances the **protection of the rights of people with disabilities**, to empower them to live in **equality** as true members of their communities, and lead **independent** and **secure** lives.
- ❑ It aims to create a tolerant and pluralistic society, **eliminating a wide range of barriers** to participation in society so that people with disabilities can lead the lives that they **have chosen themselves**.

# How measures based on basic plans for people with disabilities are rolled out

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## **1. Enhancing health, medical, and welfare services that support people's lives**

- (1) Enhancing health and medical services
- (2) Enhancing welfare services for independent and secure lives
- (3) Educating and hiring people who support people with disabilities

## **2. Expanding participation in society that harnesses the unique qualities and abilities of each individual**

- (1) Enhancing education and rehabilitation
- (2) Promoting increased hiring and employment
- (3) Promoting active participation in society

## **3. Building a society where people help each other**

- (1) Enhancing and promoting systems that protect rights
- (2) Enhancing awareness-raising and PR activities
- (3) Creating environments for community life
- (4) Promoting international exchange and cooperation

## 2. Okinawa Welfare Plan for People with Disabilities, Phase 2

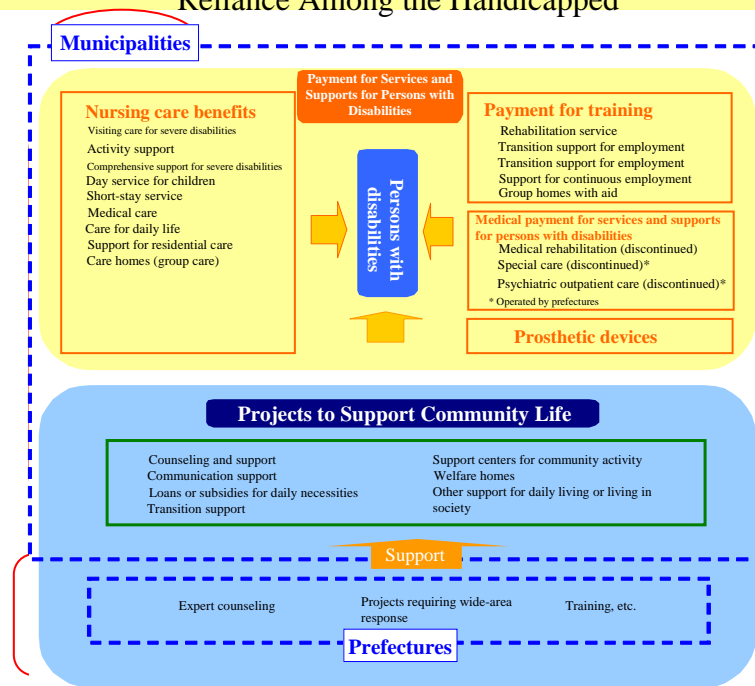
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- Next, I will describe **Phase 2** of the Okinawa Welfare Plan for People with Disabilities. This is an action plan for measures to support the livelihoods of people with disabilities in the Third Okinawa Prefecture Basic Plan for People with Disabilities.

# What is the Significance of the Prefectural Plans for the Welfare of People with Disabilities?

- The purpose of **prefectural disability welfare plans** is to create a regime for providing disability welfare services, counseling and support, and projects to support community life, working through the municipal governments and acting with a **broad perspective**, in order to further the achievement of **municipal disability welfare plans**.

Overview of Self-reliance Support System Based on Law to Encourage Self-Reliance Among the Handicapped



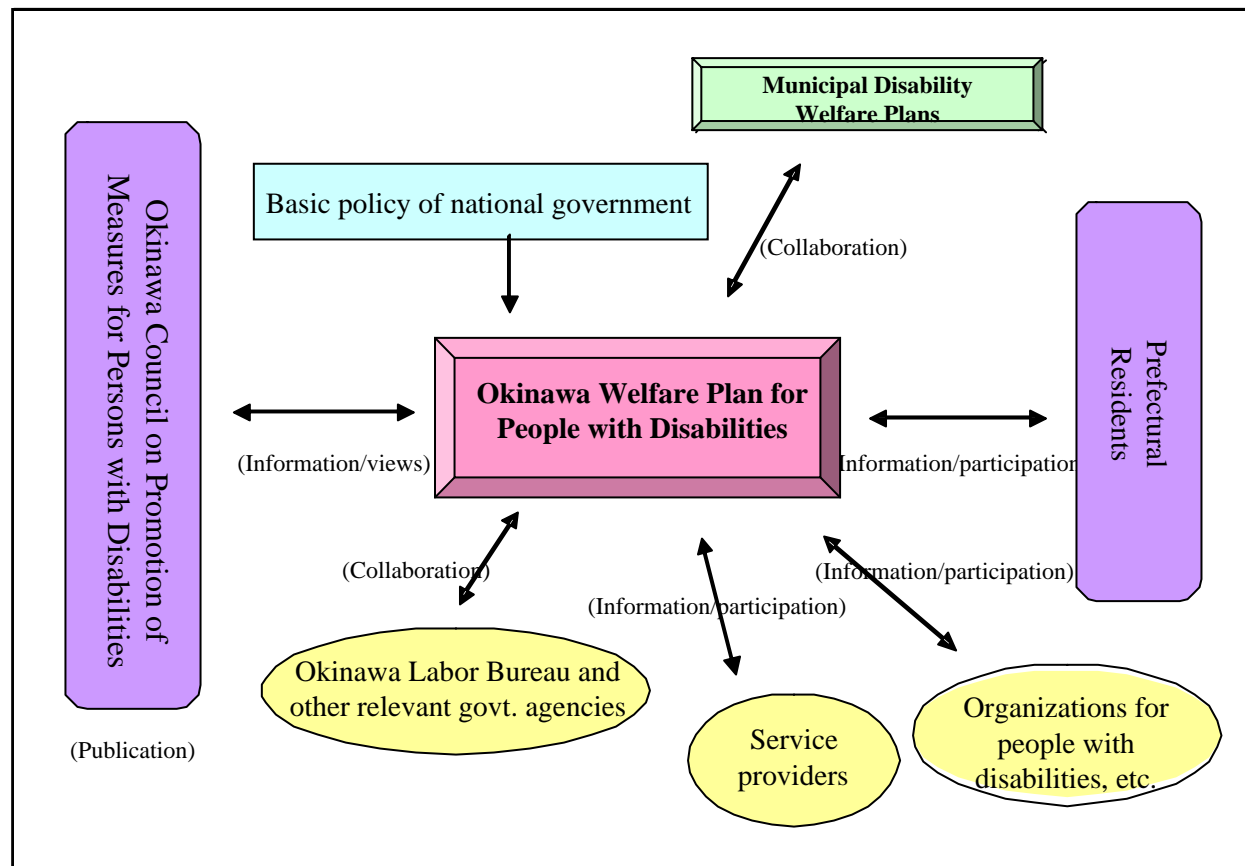
The disability welfare plans set numerical targets for 2011, in the following three fields of support established by the Law to Encourage Self-Reliance Among the Handicapped. They set out measures to predict and ensure quantitative levels for each service type, in each fiscal year.

Disability welfare services (payment for training and nursing care benefits)  
 counseling and support  
 Projects to Support Community Life

# Plan Formulation Regime

*See Views (References 2 to 3) for details*

The Okinawa Welfare Plan for People with Disabilities is created by the Okinawan prefectural government in collaboration with relevant government agencies and outside organizations, and is based on the views of the Okinawa Council on Promotion of Measures for Persons with Disabilities, organizations for people with disabilities, and Okinawan residents.



# Overview of Okinawa Welfare Plan for People with Disabilities, Phase 2

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## Basic Philosophy

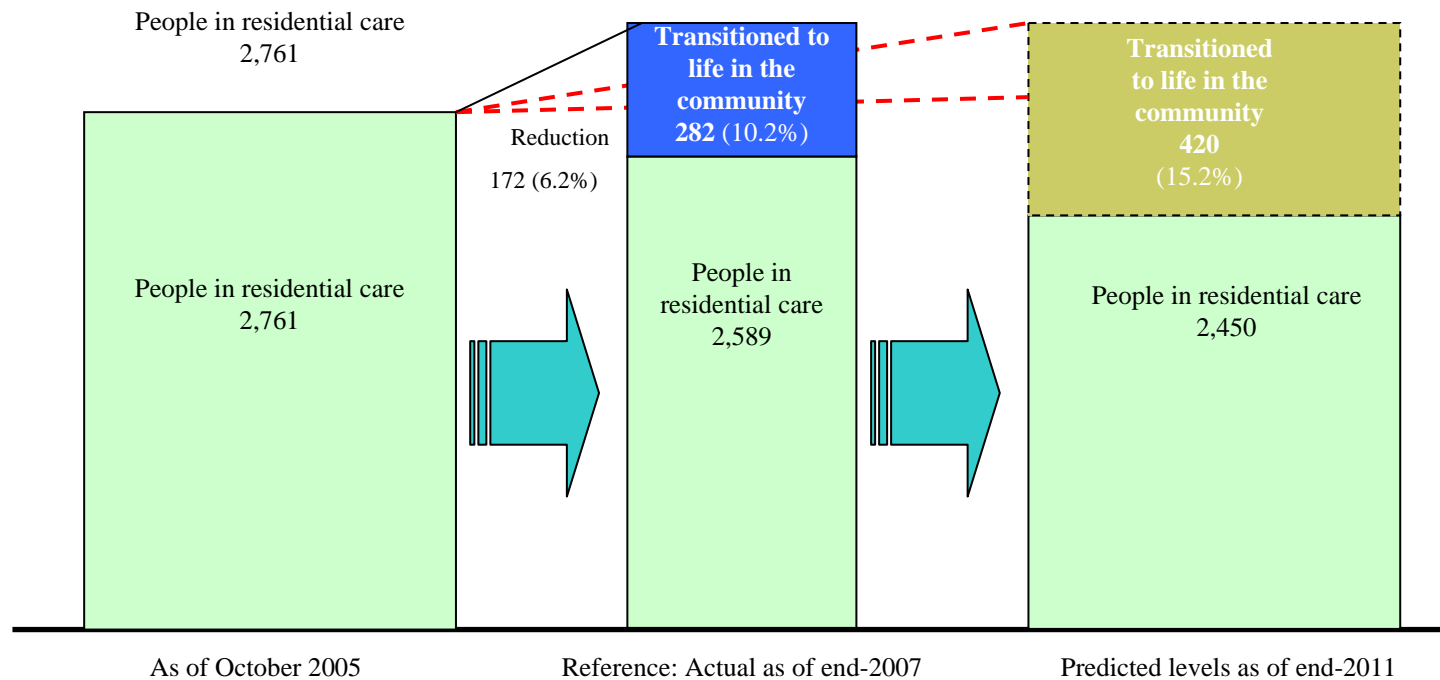
The basic philosophy of the prefecture of Okinawa is shown below. Its aims are to take maximum advantage of community resources to facilitate services and to promote the creation of a service regime to help people with disabilities transition to life in the community, find work, and the like.



# Targets of Disability Welfare Plans

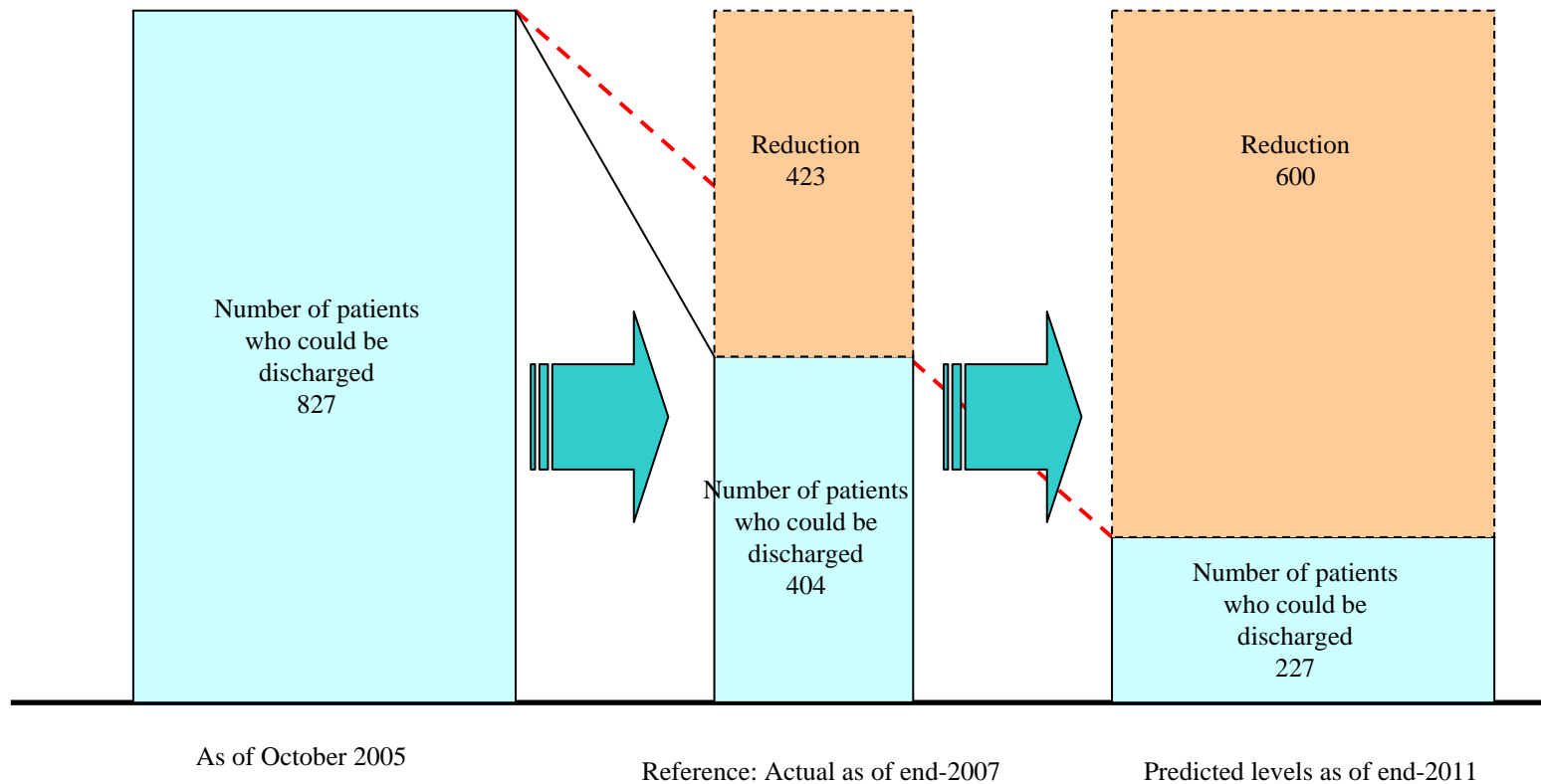
## Numerical Targets: 1. Transition from residential care to life in community

Of the 2,761 people in residential care as of October 2005, the government of Okinawa expects 420 (15.2%) to transition to life in the community (e.g. group homes, care homes, and residential homes) by the end of fiscal 2011. It also expects the number of people in residential care as of October 2005 to decrease by 311 (11.3%) by this time.



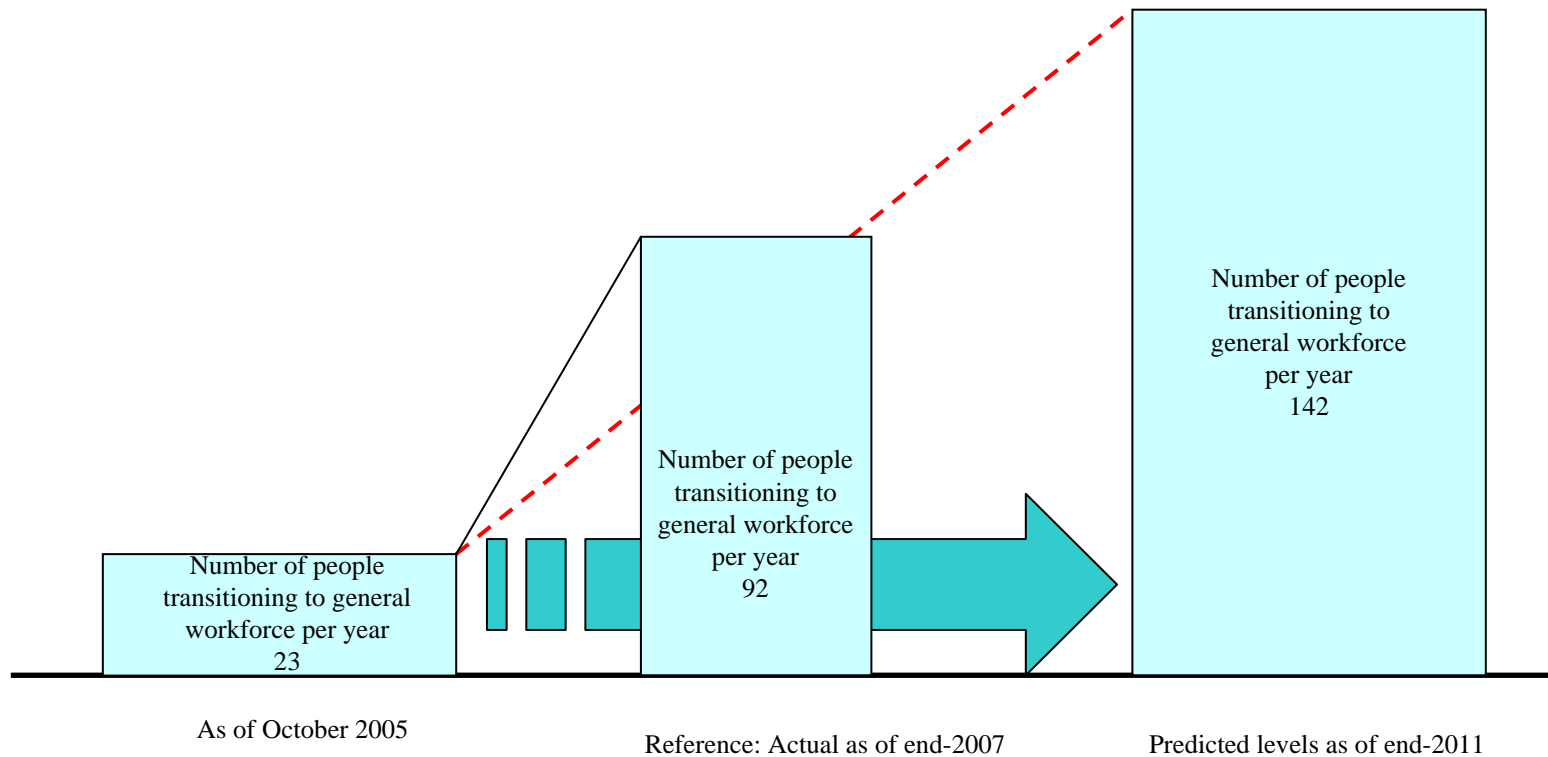
## Numerical Targets: 2. People Hospitalized with Mental Illnesses Transitioning to Life in Community

According to a survey of psychiatric hospitals conducted by the prefecture, there were 827 patients who could be discharged if the acceptance criteria could be met. The prefecture expects 600 of these individuals to be discharged by the end of fiscal 2011.

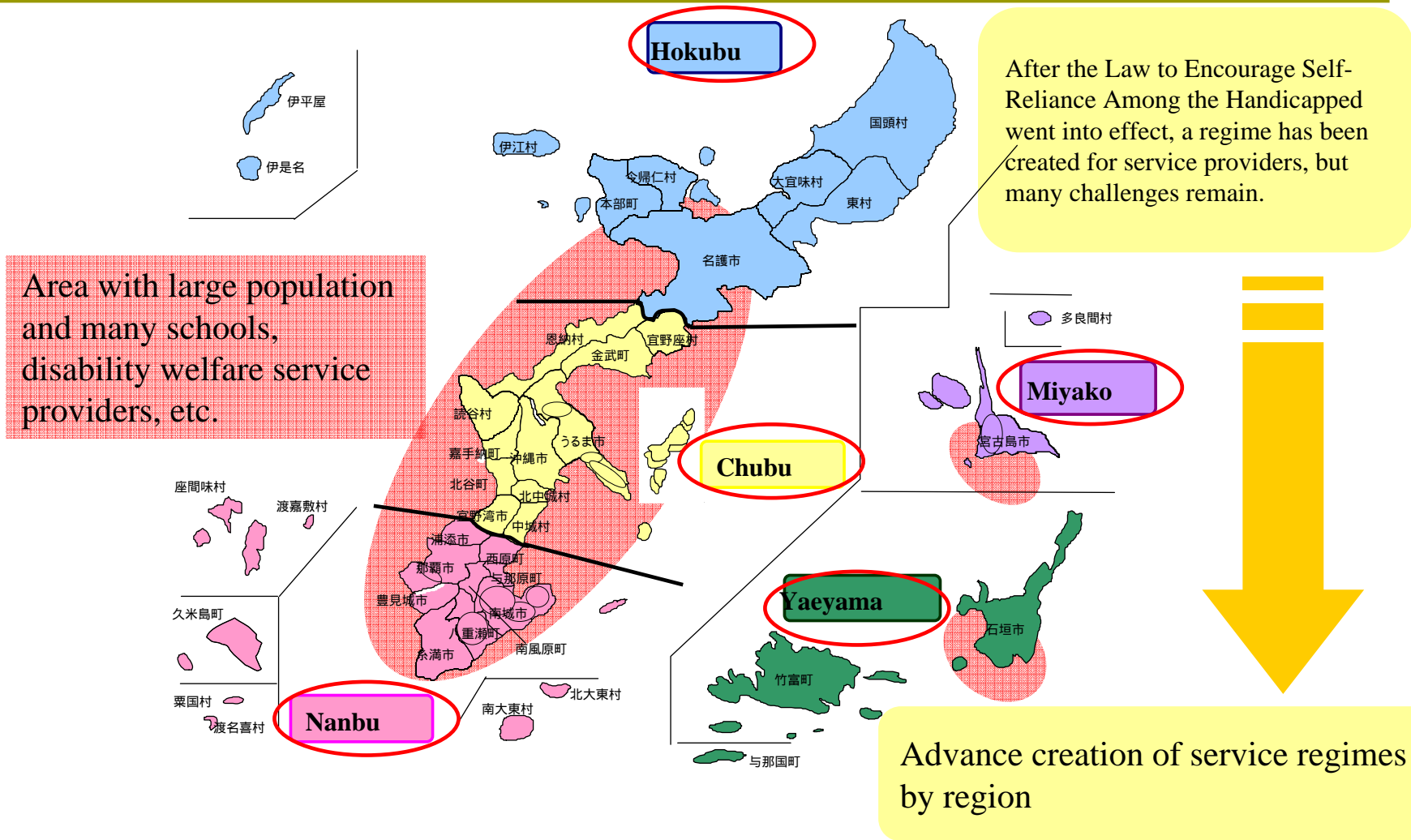


## Numerical Targets: 3. Transitions from residential care to workforce, etc.

In fiscal 2005, 23 people in Okinawa transitioned to the general workforce. The government of Okinawa expects this number to grow 6.2-fold in fiscal 2011, to 142 people.



# Service Infrastructure by Region



## Main Challenges for Initiatives

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- ❑ Promoting support for people with disabilities who have left residential care and people with mental illnesses who have left hospital care to live in the community
- ❑ Ensuring places to live for people with disabilities
- ❑ Creating infrastructure for service regimes
- ❑ Expanding and enhancing counseling and support
- ❑ Providing support for people with disabilities to find work
- ❑ Enhancing initiatives to prevent abuse
- ❑ Vision for support for people with disabilities on remote islands and in municipalities with small populations
- ❑ Establishing measures to support people with developmental disabilities and their families

# Regime for Promoting Welfare Plan for People with Disabilities, Phase 2

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## **1. Build support regimes in health and welfare regions**

Build a regime for community support in partnership with institutions and individuals from relevant fields, such as medical care, health, welfare, education, and labor, coordinated by regional self-reliance support councils.

Promote effective and comprehensive measures through collaboration between relevant government agencies, public health and welfare centers, mental health centers, and other relevant institutions.

## **2. Create service regimes that match the needs of the community**

Support the needs of people with disabilities and other flexibly through such means as the active use of social-welfare corporations, registered NPOs, and others.

Support municipal initiatives on remote islands, which lack social resources due to geographical conditions, and smaller municipalities that have difficulty ensuring service regimes through independent regional liaison councils, such as initiatives by communities to develop and improve their resources independently, and encouraging multiple municipalities to pool their resources and create joint projects to meet their needs.

## **3. Promote the creation of community networks**

Build regimes for sharing information within regions.

## **4. Promote the enhancement and development of community support regimes, effectively utilizing special national programs and the like aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Law to Encourage Self-Reliance Among the Handicapped**

### 3. Promotion of Key Projects in Fiscal 2009

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- In closing, I will describe the key projects being implemented by my division in fiscal 2009.

#### Key Projects

- (1) Establish regime for effective promotion of Second Welfare Plan for People with Disabilities, Phase 2
- (2) Enhance regime to support children with developmental disabilities
- (3) Project to promote plan to double wages
- (4) Promote sports for people with disabilities
- (5) Promote measures to prevent suicides

*See Reference 5 for a list of all projects*

## **(1) Establish regime for effective promotion of Second Welfare Plan for People with Disabilities, Phase 2**

Promote enhancement of functions of regional (community) self-reliance support councils

Promote training to improve quality of counseling/support workers, etc.

Build group and care homes

Promote transition to new service structure based on Law to Encourage Self-Reliance Among the Handicapped

Enhance public relations and awareness raising

## **(2) Enhance regime to support children with developmental disabilities**

Establish regime for support with no gaps based at centers for support of people with developmental disabilities

Support education and training to enhance regime for early detection and support

## **(3) Project to promote plan to double wages**

Provide on-site management consultants and supporters for wage increases

## **(4) Promote sports for people with disabilities**

Promote sports associations in order to rehabilitate people with disabilities and improve their competitive skills

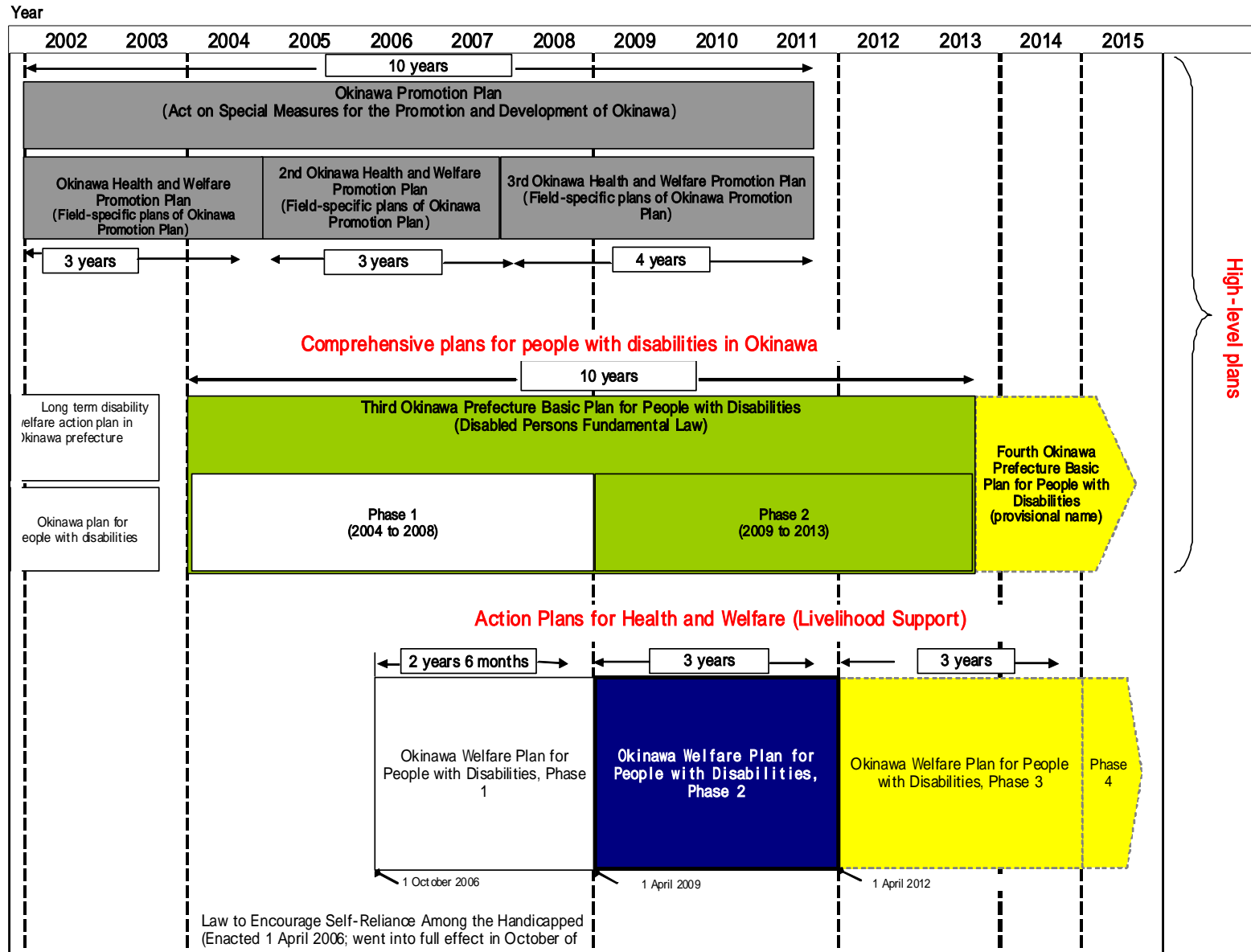
## **(5) Promote measures to prevent suicides**

Promote measures to prevent suicide in partnership with relevant organizations and the like, in light of the current worsening economic situation



# 3. Reference Materials

# Reference 1: Relationship between 3<sup>rd</sup> Okinawa Prefecture Basic Plan for People with Disabilities and Phase 2 of Welfare Plan for People with Disabilities



## Reference 2: Main Views on Planning by Relevant Organizations

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### 1. Welfare organizations: Interviews with 35 organizations

- **Criteria for certification of disability level** must be verified based on actual situation.  
(Especially for mental disabilities, mental illness, developmental disabilities, and higher cerebral dysfunction)
- **Enhance promotion of barrier-free** communities  
(Signs at public facilities, etc.; installation of toilets usable by ostomates; introduction of kneeling buses; introduction of parking permits; etc.)
- Promote creation of host institutions (**e.g. group homes**) to support transition to community
- Correct disparities between municipalities in **operation of support centers for community activity**
- Provide **training to support improved skills of** physicians, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, etc.
- **Training** is needed for **participation by peer counselors** in counseling and support
- Need to **enhance support for finding work** and **follow up after employment**, such as special framework for people with disabilities
- Should provide **targeted** vocational training, **such as capabilities of people with mental illnesses**
- Promote establishment of **associations to promote sports for people with disabilities**
- **Enhance public relations and awareness-raising** to further understanding of people with disabilities

## Reference 3: Main Views by Municipalities

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### **Transition to Community by People with Mental Illnesses Able to be Discharged from Hospital Care**

- There is not enough information about hospitalization and discharge of people with mental illnesses. For this reason, sometimes government agencies are only notified after someone returning to the community gets into trouble with residents.
- It is not feasible for municipalities to coordinate with the medical field independently. We need coordinators to link welfare agencies.
- Some hospitals are more active than others when patients are discharged. Some hospitals are scrupulously linked to their communities.
- After discharge, there should be services to link up older people, shut-ins, and users of hospital day care with welfare services.
- We need support for securing housing, family understanding and support, support for visits by commissioned welfare providers, etc.

### **Transition from Residential Care to General Work Force**

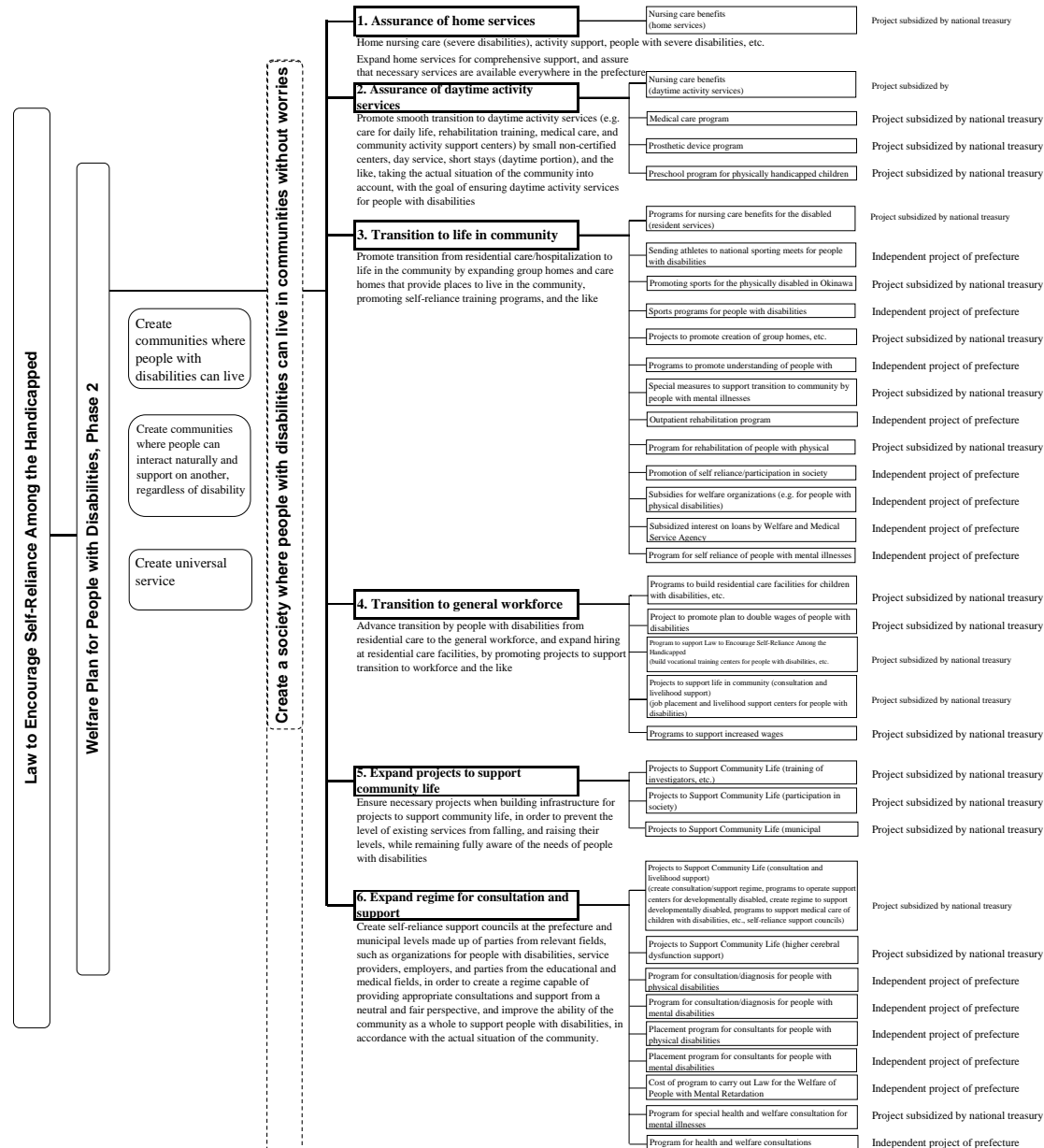
- Initiatives to promote employment in general workforce have been enhanced since 2007. Large and small retailers, hotels, and others are cooperating with community outreach and ensuring the legally required ratio of employees with disabilities.
- We have created a jobs subcommittee of the regional self-reliance support councils, which organize issues and help create employment.

### **Provision of Services**

- More children with developmental disabilities are using day service for children. Qualitative improvements to centers are needed. (Improve medical-care functions)
- Improvements are needed for sign-language courses, the adult guardian system, and the like, such as implementation within regions.

# Reference 4: List of Projects by Health and Welfare Division for People with Disabilities

Relationship between Okinawa Welfare Plan for People with Disabilities (phase 2) and Initial 2009 Budget



2 A level; 4 B level; 8 C level; 23 D level

Of these { Civilian: 46 projects  
Military: 13 projects

\* Excluding division's operational and personnel c

Create a society where people with disabilities can live in communities without worries

