

Role and Function of the Councils of Social Welfare

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I. What Are the Councils of Social Welfare?

1. Basic Character

Councils of Social Welfare (hereafter referred to as CSW) were established at the national and prefectural level, in 1951, soon after the war, in order to strengthen private-sector social welfare activities. Shortly thereafter, they were organized at the municipal level and have fulfilled a role in promoting community welfare activities while promoting citizen participation in welfare activities right through to the present day.

The main characteristic of CSW is that they were formed and conduct their activities with the participation and cooperation of citizens and parties related to social welfare; they are non-profit private-sector organizations that combine independence as private-sector organizations with publicity backed by a wide range of local citizens and parties interested in social welfare.

2. Structure

The CSW established at the municipal level consist of parties concerned from local community associations, as well as related fields including the fields of social welfare, healthcare, medicine and education, not to mention a wide range of various experts, groups and institutions that form the local community.

3. Objectives

Based on the principle that local citizens form the principal actors, CSW see that the various welfare problems of the community should be tackled by the community as a whole, and aim to develop the welfare community and promote community welfare, by working together to think about and discuss issues in order to resolve them.

4. Projects

CSW are providing support for creating a forum for local citizens' welfare activities, making of social groups with issues in common, working in partnership with individuals, groups and institutions relating to social welfare in the public and private sectors, and planning and implementing specific welfare services.

5. Organization

CSW have been established at the municipal, designated city, prefectural and national level, and are groups that undertake activities through their networks. Moreover, while they have "independence" as private-sector organizations, they are groups that have a "publicity", as they are

backed by a wide range of citizens and parties involved in social welfare.

II. The Legal Standing of the Councils of Social Welfare

CSW are prescribed in the Social Welfare Law (enacted in June 2000 in order to amend the Social Welfare Service Law), in Article 109 “Municipal Councils of Social Welfare and Ward Councils of Social Welfare”, Article 110 “Prefectural Councils of Social Welfare” and Article 111 “The Japan National Council of Social Welfare”. Below is a summary of the legal standing of CSW based on the provisions of the article relating to municipal CSW.

1. Structure

The structure of CSW is such that i) those managing services with a social welfare objective and those conducting activities relating to social welfare shall participate in them; and ii) at least half of those involved in managing social welfare services and rehabilitation services within each ward shall participate in them.

Thus, in law as well, CSW are stipulated as being organizations that secure the participation of a larger number of parties involved in social welfare from a wide range of fields.

2. Objective and Services

In the Social Welfare Service Law that was in force hitherto, the objectives were set forth by listing the projects to be undertaken by CSW, but in Article 109 of the Social Welfare Law enacted in revised form, the objective of CSW was clearly stipulated to be to “promote community welfare”.

Moreover, with regard to the services undertaken by CSW, a wide range of services are positioned within the law, in order to attain objective, encompassing i) the planning and implementation of services for the purpose of social welfare; ii) support for the participation of citizens in activities related to social welfare; iii) surveys, dissemination, publicity, liaison, coordination and aid related to services for the purpose of social welfare; and iv) services necessary for the sound development of services for the purpose of social welfare.

3. Legal Status

Within the law, it is not mandatory for CSW to be social welfare foundations, but it is the policy of not only CSW and parties involved in social welfare, but also of the government to promote the establishment of social welfare foundations.

It is preferable to attain social welfare foundation status, in particular, from the perspective of clarifying the relationship of CSW with municipal administration, securing the trust of local citizens and other interested parties, and the tax system, so people are working together to establish such foundations and consequently 99.1% of municipal CSW have attained social welfare foundation status so far.

(Reference) Provisions Relating to Councils of Social Welfare Within the Social Welfare Law

(Articles 109 – 111)

Article 109 The purpose of a Municipal Council of Social Welfare shall be to promote community welfare by performing the services listed below in an area consisting of a municipality or two or more municipalities in a prefecture. A Municipal Council of Social Welfare shall include persons that manage services for the purpose of social welfare or carry out activities related to social welfare in the area. In the case of a designated city, the Municipal Council of Social Welfare shall include the majority of the Ward Councils of Social Welfare in the city and the majority of the persons who manage social welfare services or rehabilitation services in the city. In the case of a municipality other than a designated city, the Municipal Council of Social Welfare shall include the majority of the persons who manage social welfare services or rehabilitation services in the municipality.

- (i) Planning and implementation of services for the purpose of social welfare
- (ii) Support for the participation of citizens in activities related to social welfare
- (iii) Surveys, dissemination, publicity, liaison, coordination, and aid related to services for the purpose of social welfare
- (iv) Besides the services listed above, services necessary for the sound development of services for the purpose of social welfare

(Remainder omitted)

Article 110 The purpose of a Prefectural Council of Social Welfare shall be to promote community welfare by performing the services listed below in the prefecture. A Prefectural Council of Social Welfare shall include the majority of the Municipal Councils of Social Welfare in the prefecture and the majority of persons who manage social welfare services or rehabilitation services in the prefecture.

- (i) Services that are listed in Paragraph (1) of the preceding article and can be performed more appropriately if being performed beyond municipal borders
- (ii) Provision of training to persons engaged in services for the purpose of social welfare
- (iii) Provision of guidance and advice about management of services for the purpose of social welfare
- (iv) Maintenance of mutual liaison and coordination of services among the Municipal Councils of Social Welfare

(Remainder omitted)

Article 111 The Prefectural Councils of Social Welfare may establish a national federation of Councils of Social Welfare to maintain mutual liaison and coordinate services.

(Remainder omitted)

III. The Organizational Structure of the Councils of Social Welfare

CSW have been established at every level within Japan: municipal, prefectural and designated city, and national. They are independent each other as social welfare foundation, and the CSW at the national, prefectural and designated city level also have functions as federations according to the law, and engage in organizational coordination.

CSW are composed of welfare facilities, Community Welfare/Child Welfare Volunteers, community people's organizations, social welfare organizations, etc.

The organizational structure of CSW at each level and the relationships between them are as follows.

1. Councils of Social Welfare as Prescribed in the Social Welfare Law

◇ Municipal Councils of Social Welfare

Persons that manage services for the purpose of social welfare or carry out activities related to social welfare in the area participate in these, as do the majority of the persons managing social welfare services or rehabilitation services in the municipality.

In addition, conventionally, municipal CSW were established for individual municipal units, but under the recently revised Social Welfare Law, it has become possible to establish CSW for two or more municipalities within a prefecture.

◇ Designated City Councils of Social Welfare

Persons that manage services for the purpose of social welfare or carry out activities related to social welfare in the area participate in these, as do the majority of the local CSW (ward CSW) in the city and the majority of the persons who manage social welfare services or rehabilitation services in the city.

◇ Prefectural Councils of Social Welfare

The majority of the municipal CSW in the prefecture participate in these, as do the majority of persons who manage social welfare services or rehabilitation services in the prefecture.

◇ Japan National Council of Social Welfare

The Japan National Council of Social Welfare has been established as a federation of the prefectural CSW.

2. Voluntary Councils of Social Welfare

These are not prescribed in law, but the following types of CSW may also be established, depending on the status quo of the region.

◇ County Councils of Social Welfare and Regional Councils of Social Welfare

County CSW taking a county as their area and regional CSW taking several counties as their area may be established voluntarily. Organizationally speaking, they are positioned between prefectural

and municipal CSW, but are not necessarily established in all prefectures.

◇ Subregional Councils of Social Welfare, Centered on the Daily Living Area

CSW that take the daily living area as their area of focus also exist, depending on the region. Most are based on an elementary school, and are known as school district CSW, precinct CSW or district CSW. Some do not use the term CSW, but have names such as school welfare committee or citizens' welfare council.

IV. The Activity Principles and Functions of the Councils of Social Welfare

The “Activity Principles” and “Functions” of the CSW are explained in the *New Basic Guidelines on Councils of Social Welfare*, which were formulated in 1992 by the Japan National Council of Social Welfare, as shown below:

1. Activity Principles

Based on the following five activity principles, CSW conduct activities that make use of local characteristics:

i) The principle of the needs of citizens

Through surveys and other means, CSW shall strive to grasp the demand of citizens, as well as the welfare issues they face, and to promote activities based on the needs of citizens as a top priority.

ii) The principle of citizens being the main actors in activities

To promote the activities, CSW shall increase the interest of citizens to community welfare to induce a group of volunteers as a base of activities.

iii) The principle of basis in the private sector

CSW shall undertake activities that make use of pioneering spirit, quick response and flexibility, as a private-sector organization.

iv) The principle of public-private partnership

CSW shall strive for collaboration between government bodies and private-sector groups involved in such areas as social welfare, healthcare and medicine, education and labor, and undertake activities through collaboration between government and citizens' organizations.

v) The principle of specialization

CSW shall undertake activities that make use of their specialization in welfare, such as the organization of welfare activities undertaken by citizens, surveys aimed at understanding needs, and the formulation of local welfare activity plans.

2. Functions

CSW fulfill the following seven functions as organizations promoting community welfare:

i) Functions focused on clarifying the needs of citizens and the welfare issues they face, and promoting citizens' activities

In collaboration with citizens in a community, CSW shall implement social welfare surveys

and other investigations, in order to gain an accurate understanding of their welfare needs and clarify welfare problems of the community, and shall promote welfare activities aimed at resolving those problems. CSW are considering welfare problems in partnership with citizens and are undertaking activities to resolve these.

- ii) Functions focused on organizing public/private welfare services and fulfilling liaison and coordination roles

As well as the people's power, a cooperative system involving individuals and groups involved in social welfare and people working in a wide range of related fields, such as healthcare, medicine, education and labor is essential. CSW are building networks while undertaking liaison and coordination with related parties in the fields of not only social welfare but also healthcare, medicine, etc.

- iii) Functions focused on planning and implementing welfare activities and services

Based on functions i) and ii) above, CSW undertake local cooperative activities, and plan and implement services involving participation by community people.

- iv) Functions focused on research and development

CSW shall conduct surveys on social welfare needs and actual status of welfare activities in a community, and develop new services based on the outcomes of the research. When there is a lack of the social resources to resolve problems, CSW shall undertake the development of new services and systems.

- v) Functions focused on formulating plans, making suggestions and implementing improvements

CSW shall formulate plans relating to social welfare making use of the advantages that they consist of community people and persons involved in public and private social welfare services. In addition, based on these plans, CSW shall make suggestions and recommendation on improvements in relation to governmental bodies, related groups and citizens.

- vi) Functions focused on PR and public awareness

CSW publish newsletters and provide information about the principles of welfare, the welfare system and welfare services, in order to gain the understanding of a wide range of citizens and other related parties .

- vii) Functions focused on support for welfare activities and services

CSW shall support independent/voluntary welfare activities of citizens and the activities of local groups that are implemented in a community.

V. The Implementation Status of the Projects of the Councils of Social Welfare (Major Projects)

[Municipal Councils of Social Welfare]

1. Promoting Community Welfare Activities

(1) Citizens' interaction activities through "Fureai Iki-iki Salons (friendly and lively salons)"

Because of the declining birthrate and the aging of the population, weakened family ties and local bond, there are people who are lonely and anxious. In order to solve this problem, there has been a focus on creating salons where local citizens can meet in a relaxed, natural atmosphere, and this endeavor has been spreading across the country rapidly.

CSW operate or support the operation of "friendly and lively salons" in approximately 40,000 locations across Japan, providing opportunities and a place where elderly people, people with disabilities, parents bringing up children, and other citizens can meet in a relaxed atmosphere, interacting and exchanging information.

(2) Watching activities through "area networks"

In order to support the daily lives of elderly people and people with disabilities in their homes, CSW are promoting watching & support network activities based on small areas in a community. These watching activities, in which citizens and related institutions work together, foster ties and mutual reliability among community people.

(3) Survey activities

Through survey activities about the welfare for elderly people/people with disabilities/children, the holding of "citizens' discussion meeting" in each district and the establishment of "welfare committee members," CSW are identifying a variety of welfare needs from the perspective of citizens. In order to meet the identified needs, CSW are promoting the establishment of community-people-participating-type welfare services and support for them, as well as making welfare information available through non-traditional media such as the internet, in order to ensure that appropriate information about welfare services reaches people.

2. Implementing In-Home Welfare Services

(1) Implementing home-care services through long-term care insurance

Home-care services undertaken through long-term care insurance were pioneered by CSW even before the system was put in place. Currently, 70% of CSW nationwide implement home-care support services (making of care plans) and home-visiting care services (home help services), while 50% provide day care services; thus, CSW play a part in this system and are supporting the daily lives of citizens.

(2) Supporting the community life of people with disabilities

The concepts of normalization and social inclusion aim to create a society in which people with/without disabilities can all live independently and participate fully. In order to realize this ideal, CSW are supporting the community life of people with disabilities, through the provision of services such as home help services for disabled people.

(3) Developing new welfare services

Other than social welfare services based on traditional system, CSW are trying to develop new welfare services according to the needs of the people. The “community-people-participating-type welfare services” operated by CSW and community people provide opportunities to meet a diverse range of needs including housework service, companion service, childcare service, outing assistance service, book-reading service, letter-writing service and asset-protection service.

3. Implementing Consultation Activities, Including “General Welfare Consultations”

CSW are developing a consultation system for accepting all kinds of consultations relating to welfare and daily life, providing counseling and support in partnership with specialized consultation organizations and aiming to assist in resolving problems. Moreover, some CSW that deal with various worries and concerns in daily life as “worry counseling” in collaboration with social workers and Comissioned Welfare/Child Welfare Volunteers.

4. Operating National Volunteer/Civil Activities Promotion Centers

(1) Introduction and counseling on volunteer activities

At National Volunteer/Civil Activities Promotion Centers, CSW provide counseling about activities and introductions to places where such activities take place for those who wish to participate in volunteer activities. Moreover, on the occasion of a large-scale disaster, CSW set up disaster volunteer centers and implement support activities.

In addition, at present, the number of people who engage in volunteer activities is 8.33 million people, according to figures obtained by CSW.

(2) Volunteer popularization activities

CSW undertake activities aimed at popularization of volunteer activities, providing training in assistance techniques, sign language and Braille, and offering opportunities for gaining hands-on experience. Moreover, , CSW provide opportunities to experience and learn about volunteer work for pupils of elementary, junior high and high schools as volunteer cooperation schools .

5. Supporting the Formulation of Community Welfare Activity Plans and Community Welfare Plans

It is prescribed in the Social Welfare Law that municipalities shall formulate “community welfare plans” that reflect the opinions of local citizens, in order comprehensively to promote community welfare services.

CSW already formulate “community welfare activity plans,” which are plans for private-sector

welfare activities, with the participation of citizens and making use of their networks of connections with various groups. Utilizing such initiatives, CSW are supporting the formulation of community welfare plans by municipalities.

[Prefectural and Designated City Councils of Social Welfare]

1. Supporting the Users of Welfare Services

(1) Daily life independence support services

In relation to people who suffer from impediments to daily life due to the lack of ability for judgement (for example, people with intellectual disabilities, people with mental disorders and elderly people with dementia), CSW provide services including i) assistance in using welfare services (providing information and advice about welfare services, and acting as an agent or representative in contracts, etc.); ii) everyday money management (making regular visits, withdrawing the money required for everyday life from the bank and taking it to the individual, etc.); and iii) taking care of documents, as appropriate (e.g. keeping hold of passbooks and important documents where there is a concern that the individual might lose them) respecting the individuals and maintaining the decision-making of the users .

As an executant, Prefectural and Designated City CSW put specialists and daily life supporters in 750 Municipal CSW to play a role in activities of right protection for community people. Also advise for the adult guardianship system are provided.

(2) Resolving complaints about welfare services

By accepting requests for consultations concerning complaints relating to welfare services through the “Administrative Adequacy Promotion Committee” established within the prefectural CSW, and seeking to resolve problems from a neutral standpoint through counseling, advice and mediation, CSW support appropriate operation by service provider, as well as supporting the users of those services.

(3) Implementing third-party evaluation on social welfare services

As well as gaining an understanding of operational issues faced by service providers and seeking to improve the quality of services, CSW are making preparations for third-party evaluations that assess the quality of welfare services from a neutral standpoint, in order to ensure users have this information available when selecting welfare services.

2. Providing Loans to Welfare Life Fund

Prefectural CSW provide low-interest loans to households with low incomes, people with disabilities and elderly people, with the aim of stabilizing their lifestyles through promoting economic independence and social participation.

Moreover, in relation to households that have found it difficult to maintain a livelihood due to unemployment, CSW provide loans for daily living expenses (support loans for the unemployed),

provided that certain requirements are met, such as i) under job-hunting; and ii) no ordinary job-seeker benefit under the employment insurance system.

In addition, amidst the worldwide recession since the summer of 2008, it was anticipated that the employment situation would deteriorate sharply and the number of unemployed people and those on low incomes would surge, so since October 2009, full-scale revisions of the system have been undertaken, in order to enable to provide more flexible loans, with the ten types of funding being integrated into the following four categories: i) general support funding; ii) welfare funding; iii) education support funding; and iv) mortgage-type lifestyle funding.

3. Support for People Involved in Social Welfare

(1) Support for volunteer activities

While collaborating with the National Volunteer/Civil Activities Promotion Centers operated by municipal CSW, prefectural CSW nurture volunteer leaders, develop and support corporate volunteer activities, and provide information through newsletters and other publications.

(2) Securing and developing welfare personnel

At training centers and other facilities, CSW conduct a wide range of welfare personnel development activities, including the acquisition of qualifications, training of specialists, and on-the-job training.

(3) Supporting the utilization of welfare personnel

The Human Resource for Welfare Centers established within prefectural CSW fulfill such functions as holding recruitment sessions and job fairs for vacancies in the welfare sector, consultations and introductions relating to jobs, and welfare courses that involve such elements as practical care training and visits to welfare facilities.

Moreover, they hold training sessions for people working in the front line of welfare and courses to support those with experience in the sector who wish to re-enter the labor market.

(4) Supporting those who wish to become teachers

In order to facilitate the smooth implementation of work experience in the field of care, etc. which is required for those wishing to obtain a teacher's license to become an elementary or junior high school teacher, prefectural CSW act as a coordinator between the welfare facilities that will accept the students and the universities training the teachers.

[Japan National Council of Social Welfare(JNCSW)]

1. Addressing common issues on a nationwide scale

(1) Initiatives aimed at improving the quality of welfare services

JNCSW is promoting improvements in the quality of welfare services by providing information, holding training sessions for service providers, and compiling and disseminating manuals, in order to

facilitate the smooth operation in the field of laws and systems relating to social welfare, from the perspective of service users.

(2) Welfare system improvement initiatives

JNCSW works in partnership with nationwide organizations of welfare facilities, etc., and implements social welfare system improvement initiatives on a nationwide scale.

(3) Publishing books and magazines

JNCSW publishes four monthly magazines and personnel development textbooks, including manuals for social welfare practitioners, thereby providing information about welfare in a timely fashion.

(4) Initiatives focused on new issues

JNCSW is tackling new welfare issues that have not hitherto been addressed adequately, such as support for people with mental disorders, abused children, and homeless people.

2. Support for Volunteer Activities

JNCSW holds the National Volunteer Festival, as well as implementing telephone consultations relating to volunteer activities.

Moreover, it provides support from the sidelines for volunteer activities, through such endeavors as training staff working at prefectural, designated city and municipal volunteer centers, and providing information to those accepting volunteers, such as welfare facilities.

3. Cultivating Personnel Involved in Welfare

(1) Implementing training at the Central Welfare Institute (LOFOS SHONAN)

JNCSW implements personnel development by organizing training aimed at improving the skills of those working at welfare facilities, and correspondence courses aimed at the acquisition of qualifications such as those required to become a social welfare director or a social worker.

(2) Providing information through the Central Human Resource for Welfare Center

Through the nationwide consolidation of recruitment and job vacancy information in the welfare sector, training courses, and nationwide campaigns relating to combined job fair and interview sessions, JNCSW works together with prefectural centers for social service human resources in order to develop welfare personnel.

4. Support for Social Welfare in Asian Countries

In order to enhance and develop social welfare in Asian countries, JNCSW invites social welfare workers in private-sector from the countries of Asia, holds courses and practical training relating to Japanese social welfare systems and facilities, and then undertakes follow-up training after they return home.

VI. The Finances of the Municipal Councils of Social Welfare (Average Income from Sources of Revenue)

Unit: ¥1,000

Item	CSW that provide long-term care insurance services		CSW that do not provide long-term care insurance	
Income from membership fees	5,649	2.1%	8,672	5.4%
Income from donations	5,609	2.1%	5,163	3.2%
Income from shares	314	0.1%	598	0.4%
Income from operating expense subsidies	45,675	16.7%	56,625	35.5%
Income from grants-in-aid	2,443	0.9%	3,800	2.4%
Income from commissions	63,749	23.3%	54,098	33.9%
Income from service revenues	7,573	2.8%	9,910	6.2%
Income from community chest allocation	6,750	2.5%	10,535	6.6%
Income from charges	1,357	0.5%	1,203	0.8%
Income from long-term care insurance services (services for elderly people)	110,176	40.3%	0	0.0%
Income from self-support benefit services (services for people with disabilities)	9,073	3.3%	2,147	1.3%
Income from welfare placement expenses (child welfare services)	542	0.2%	5	0.0%
Income from operating expenses (childcare services)	1,920	0.7%	117	0.1%
Sundry income	1,817	0.7%	948	0.6%
Other income	11,075	4.0%	5,544	3.5%
Total revenues	273,530	100.0%	159,361	100.0%

VII. The History of the Councils of Social Welfare (Major Milestones)

Year	Developments Concerning Councils of Social Welfare	Remarks	Developments Concerning the State and Legislation
1951	Formation of the Central Social Welfare Council Formation of the Prefectural Councils of Social Welfare (in all prefectures)		Enforcement of Social Welfare Services Law
1959	Inauguration of the Central Council for Development of District Organizations in Health and Welfare	Concept of “residents-centered principle”	
	Publication of “For the Training of Social Welfare Volunteers and the Promotion of Social Welfare Activities”		
1962	Establishment of “Basic Guidelines for the Councils of Social Welfare”		
	Inauguration of Zeni (goodwill) banks in Tokushima and Oita Prefectures	Intermediary for popularization of volunteer activities	
1963			Beginning of government subsidy for welfare activities instructors
1966			Beginning of government subsidy for welfare activities specialists
1967			Administrative Management Agency “Advice Concerning Community Chest”
1968	“Survey on the Actual Situation of Elderly Persons Bed-Ridden at		

	Home” (welfare volunteers and child welfare volunteers)		
1971	Denial of commissioned services Denial of direct provision of services (limited to the function to promote residents’ community welfare activities)	Increase in subsidies and commissions from municipalities Change into “subcontracting bodies”	Central Council of Social Welfare’s report “Community Formation and Social Welfare” Era of expansion of public welfare
1973			Beginning of government subsidy for “expenses for operation of volunteer activities guidance centers in prefectures and designated cities”
1975			Beginning of government subsidy for “expenses for operation of volunteer activities guidance centers in municipalities”
1976	First National Conference for the Study of Community Welfare	Centering on low-income persons, centering on facilities ⇒ Community welfare	
1977	Establishment of National Volunteer Activities Promotion Center (beginning of government subsidy)		
1979	Publication of “Strategy for Home Welfare Services”	Some opined that community welfare and home welfare services were more economical. Increase in provision of home welfare services	

		(Positive group and passive group changing into subcontracting bodies)	
1983	Legislation for the Municipal Councils of Social Welfare (which came into force on Oct. 1)		
1985			Beginning of state-subsidized Voluntopia project (welfare volunteers' community development project)
1987	Publication of "Prospects and Issues of Community-People Participating-type Welfare Service"		
1989		Progress in establishment of home welfare services mainly for the elderly	Establishment of "Ten-Year Strategy to Promote Health Care and Welfare for the Elderly" (Gold Plan)
1990	Addition of the provision that "Efforts shall be made to plan and implement projects for the purpose of social welfare"		Amendments to eight welfare-related laws
1991		Creation of the method whereby Councils of Social Welfare establish the method and system to solve problems through dealing with each welfare problem * Connection of home welfare services with community welfare	Beginning of state-subsidized "Friendly Community Development Project"

		activities, such as sub-community networks and friendly and lively salons.	
1992	Establishment of “New Basic Guidelines for Councils of Social Welfare”		
1994	Proposal of “service-type council of social welfare” Proposal of friendly and lively salons		
1995		Reconfirmation of significance of volunteer activities ⇒ New expansion of activities	Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake
1998		Forced to cooperate with NPO Diversification of driving force behind volunteer activities	“Nonprofit Organization Law” (NPO Law)
1999			Beginning of state-subsidized “Daily Life Independence Support Project”
2000			Basic structural reform of social welfare ⇒ Establishment of Social Welfare Act
		Sharp decrease in “commissions” due to long-term care insurance system Some were hard-pressed to manage long-term care insurance.	Start of long-term care insurance system
2002	Establishment of “Guidelines for	Move to reduce	Financial crisis of

	the Municipal Councils of Social Welfare” Establishment of “Guidelines for Formulating a Plan for Community Welfare Activities”	subsidies to Councils of Social Welfare	municipalities
2003	Activation of community welfare-oriented services (community welfare-type welfare services)		Enforcement of the “community welfare plan” provision
2004	Proposal of “community welfare-type welfare services” Proposal of creation of “general community system for counseling and life support”		