

HAKONE Town

Age-friendly City Action Plan



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This Age-friendly City Action Plan will be implemented through the 9th Hakone Town Health and Welfare Plan for the Elderly and the Insured Long-Term Care Service Plan (FY2024~2026)

Age-friendly City Initiatives

What is the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities ?

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched this initiative in response to two major global trends, population aging and the rapidity of urbanization, with the goal of encouraging the creation of cities that are welcoming and supportive for their older residents. This network connects cities, communities, and organizations around the world that are actively working to build age-friendly environments. Since 2009, our town has participated in the network, promoting international cooperation and the exchange of ideas and best practices for age-friendly community development.

In keeping with the basic principles of this plan, the town is developing an Age-friendly City Action Plan to help realize the vision of a long-lived society—a society where older people can live in good health with peace of mind, energy, and purpose.

Initiatives will be promoted systematically and effectively in accordance with this plan.

Action items based on WHO's Age-friendly City domains

Drawing on the current situation of older residents and the guiding principles set forth in this plan, the town will advance specific initiatives based on the eight interconnected domains proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO). These actions will be implemented over a three-year period, from 2024 to 2026.

(1) Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

To create a safe and comfortable living environment, the town will promote the appropriate use of health and welfare facilities for elderly residents, while developing comprehensive health, medical, and welfare services. These will be centered around the Senior Citizens Welfare Center *Yamanami-so* and the General Health and Welfare Center *Sakura-kan*, both serving as community hubs.

We will also work to build an environment that encourages people to go out and participate in local activities with confidence, while ensuring that public facilities are easy to access and user-friendly for everyone.

(2) Transportation

Because of the town's mountainous terrain, traveling between areas can be time-consuming, creating significant challenges in ensuring convenient and reliable transportation for older residents. To address this, the town is considering the establishment of a transportation support service that connects residents to existing public transit. In cooperation with related organizations, we will also promote traffic safety education for drivers and others, and encourage voluntary return of driver's licenses among older residents.

Additionally, we will continue providing bus fare subsidies to help older residents travel easily, supporting their independence and participation in community life.

(3) Housing

Safe and comfortable housing is the foundation of independent living for older residents. It is essential to provide comprehensive support that takes into account both daily living activities and the use of appropriate welfare equipment.

To encourage home modification covered under long-term care insurance, we offer advance consultations and coordinate between service users and service providers.

We will also strengthen cooperation with health, welfare, and business associations to expand home renovation consultation services and reinforce the post-renovation follow-up system. In addition, we will develop a consultation and guidance system in cooperation with care managers to ensure smooth and effective support.

(4) Social Participation

For older residents who tend to stay at home, we provide a variety of social and recreational opportunities—such as hobby activities and group events—through the Senior Citizens Welfare Center, *Yamanami-so* and local community centers. We also offer guidance and outreach support for those who find it difficult to reintegrate into society.

To foster a sense of purpose and social connection, we will enhance access to information and counseling on activities for older residents, expand opportunities for hobbies, recreational activities, and volunteer work, and actively promote projects that encourage meaningful participation in daily life—helping to prevent the need for long-term care and to support active living.

(5) Respect and Social Inclusion

As the number of older residents aged 75 and over continues to rise, supporting in people with dementia will become increasingly important. Alongside this, we are committed to protecting the rights and dignity of older adults by working to prevent elder abuse.

In partnership with Community Comprehensive Support Centers, specialist physicians, and dementia community support staff, we aim to strengthen early intervention and consultation services for dementia and provide ongoing mental health counseling.

We will also promote human rights protection for all older residents, including those with dementia, by advancing rights-protection systems such as adult guardianship system and establishing regional cooperation networks that play a central role in safeguarding those at risk.

Furthermore, with the cooperation of community associations, welfare and child welfare committee members, and others community partners, the Community Comprehensive Support Center will take the lead in the prevention, early detection, and response to cases of elder abuse.

(6) Participation and Employment

To encourage social participation of elderly residents through employment, the town will enhance the Silver Human Resources Center system by promoting new membership and expanding job opportunities. We will also increase more avenues for older residents to stay active and engaged by utilizing the Silver Human Resources Centers as a base for local work, skill sharing, and community involvement.

(7) Communication and Information

We aim to build a support system that allows older residents to live independently and confidently in their familiar neighborhoods. This includes strengthening lifestyle support services that make it possible for them to continue living at home with peace of mind.

In addition, we will foster a community-based inclusive society—a place where all residents participate, contribute, and support one another, regardless of age or circumstances, creating neighborhoods where everyone can live actively, safely, and with dignity.

(8) Community and Health Care

Our goal is to ensure that older residents can continue to live independently in their familiar neighborhoods, even when they require care or daily support. To achieve this, we will promote a comprehensive network of consultation and support systems within the community centered on the Community Comprehensive Support Center.

These efforts will include various initiatives—such as community support projects—tailored to the needs of each individual, depending on their physical and mental condition and level of long-term certification.