

## **SECTION 4 Supporting their self –sufficient living of fatherless families**

### **1. The Environment surrounding of fatherless families**

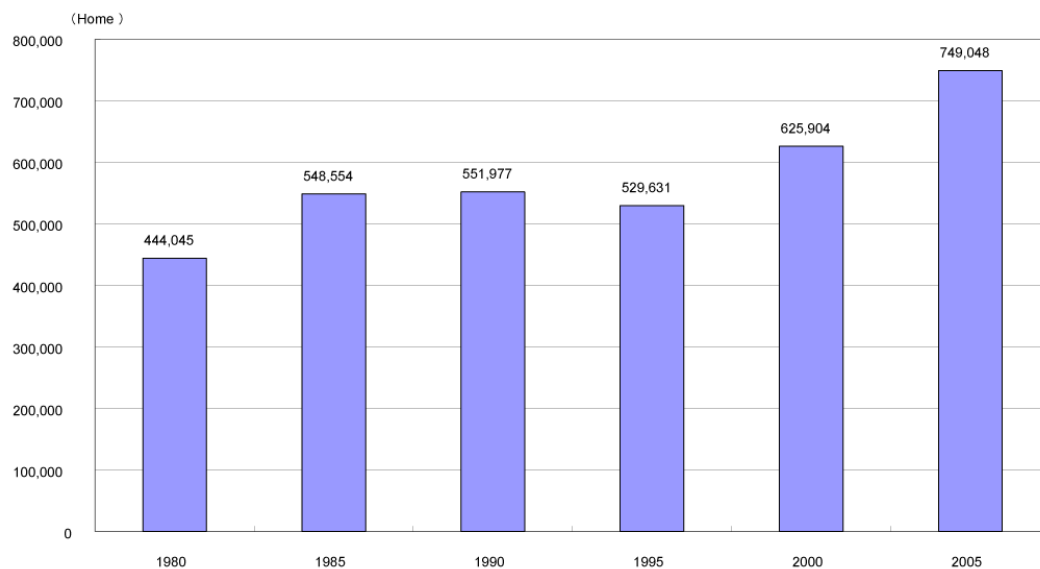
#### **(1) Increasing of fatherless families**

According to the national census, the number of fatherless families (mothers who are unmarried, bereavement and divorced, and general households (no other household membership) which consist of only children under 20 years ) is 749,048 in 2005, an increase of 19.7% compare to 625,904 in 2000 (Chart2-4-1). Due to the classification of the cause of fatherless family in the “Nationwide Survey on Fatherless Families” (2006) , the household of bereavement was 9.7% and the household who had lost contact was 89.6%. The household of bereavement was 36.1% and the household who had no contact was 63.9% in 1983, the number of households who had no contact is increasing.

Also the number of recipients for the child-care allowance is increasing due to increased fatherless families, the number of the fiscal year-end of 1998 and 2007 were 625,127 and 955,941 respectively (Chart2-4-2).

The number of annual divorce in Japan has been increasing every year since 1964, it reached a peak in 1983 and once decreased, and increased again from 1991, and recorded the high of 289,836 in 2002. However it was decreased again from 2003, the number of 2008 (approximate number) was decreased by 3,685 couples than the previous year at 251,147 couples (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare “Vital Statistics”).

**Figure 2-4-1 Changes of Single-Mother Households**



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Statistics Bureau "National Census"

Note: The Number of "Single-Mother Households" is the number of households (mothers, who are unmarried, bereavement and divorced, and general households (no other household membership) which consist of only children under 20 years). (As for years before 1985, unmarried households were excluded).

**Figure 2-4-2 Changes of the number of recipients of child-care allowance**

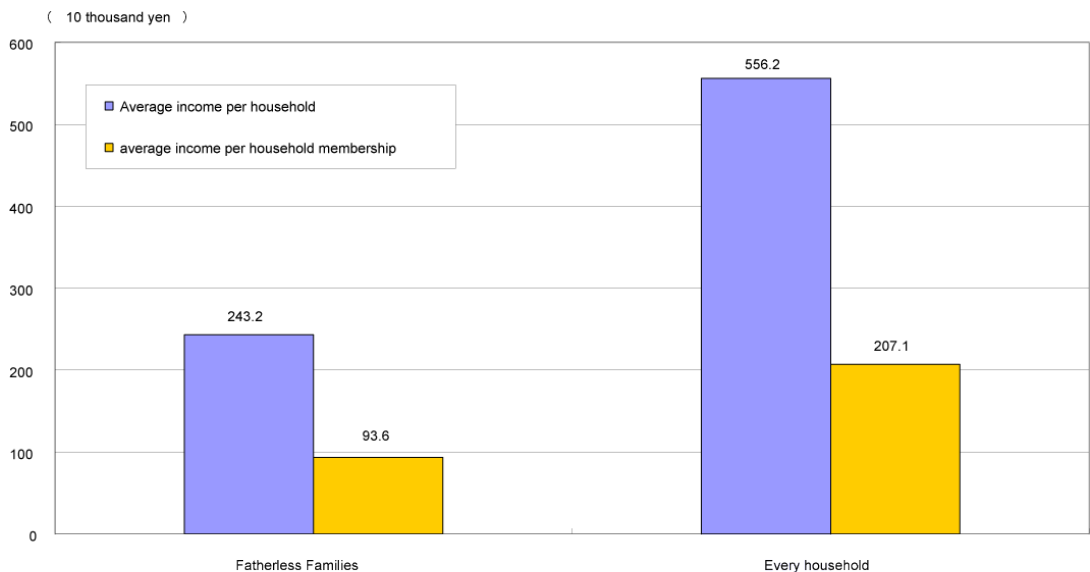


Source: The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Deputy Minister, Statistics and Information Dept. "Social Welfare Administration Affairs Report"

## (2) Conditions of Fatherless Families' Income

According to the “Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions 2008”, the average income per fatherless family is 2,432 thousand yen, 936 thousand yen per person of household. These are lower than 5,562 thousand yen for all households, and 2,071 thousand yen of the average income per person of all households (Chart 2-4-3) The breakdown of the average income per fatherless families is “working income” of 200.2 thousand yen (82.3%) and social security benefit except pension of 177 thousand yen (7.3%), and it includes the child-care allowance (Chart 2-4-4).

**Figure 2-4-3 Average income per household and average income per household membership**



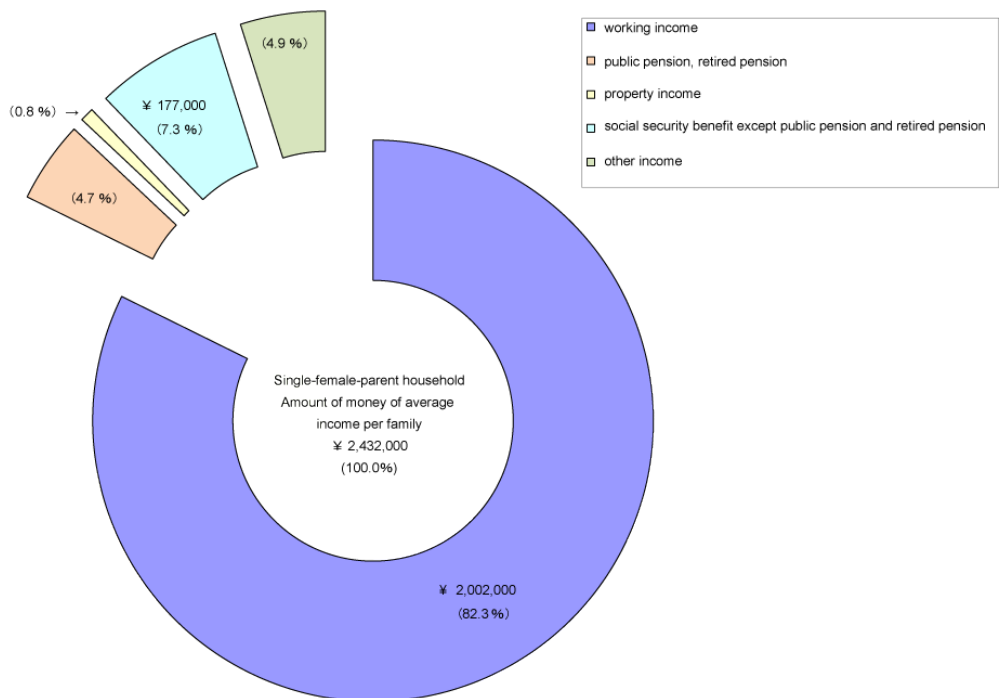
Source: The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Minister's Secretariat, Statistics and Information Dept. "Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions"(2008)

Note 1: Annual income from January 2007 to December 2007.

Note 2: "Every household" means figures of every household which include "Fatherless Families" and "elderly households"

Note 3: The objective of "Fatherless Families" is small, and a caution should be paid in use.

Figure 2-4-4 Income composition of fatherless families



Source: The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Minister's Secretariat, Statistics and Information Dept. "Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions"(2008)

Note 1: Annual income from January 2007 to December 2007.

Note 2: The objective of "Fatherless Families" is small, and a caution should be paid in use.

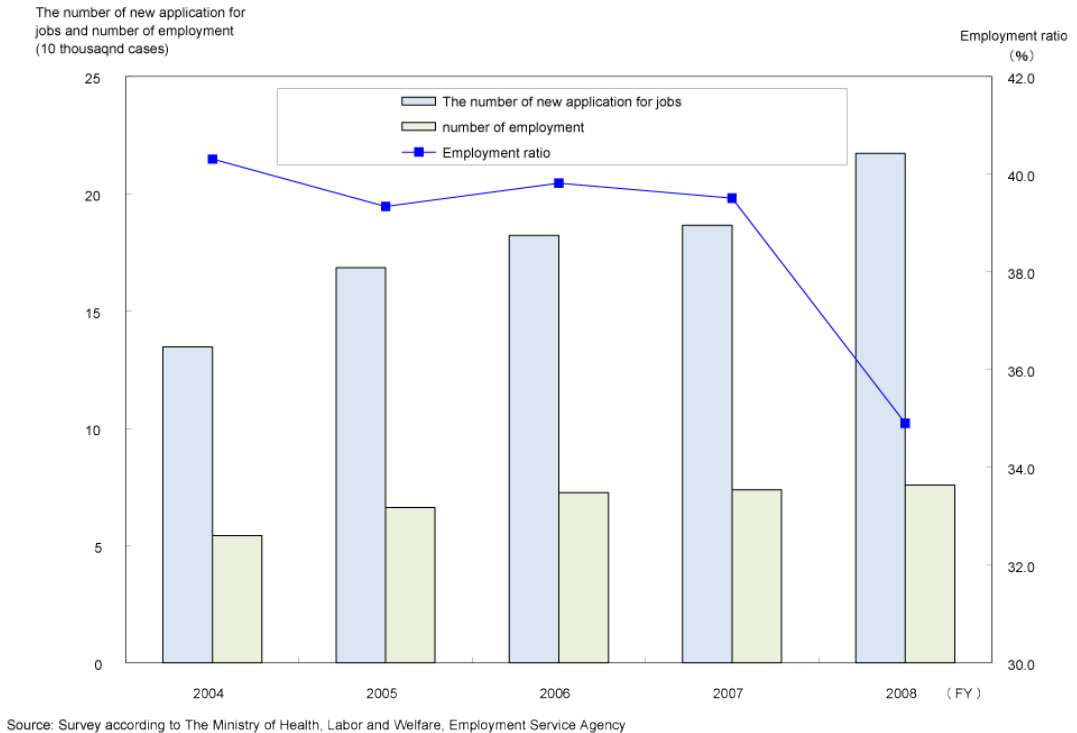
### (3) Conditions of fatherless families' employment

According to the "Nationwide Survey on Fatherless Families"(2006) in employment, 84.5% of mothers in fatherless families are working in 2006, the regular employment is 42.5% and part-timer is 43.6%. In unemployment of mothers of fatherless families, persons" who want to work" is 78.7%. The unemployment rate of fatherless families is 6.6 %, it is higher to compare to 3.9% of general households. (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Statistics Bureau, "Workforce Survey".

The number of new job applicants in mothers of fatherless families which is received in Hello Work (public job-placement office) is increasing year by year by year, in comparison of FY2007 and 2008, FY2008 saw increase of 16.4% at 217,237 compare to 186,569 of FY2007. On the other hand, the number of employment is increasing; the number of FY2008 was slightly increased by 2.9% at 75,823 compare to 73,716 of FY 2007. As for the employment rate (the rate was

calculate with dividing employment number by number of new job applicants), FY2008 was sharply decreased by 34.9% from 39.5% in FY2007, and the severe conditions continue (Chart 2-4-5).

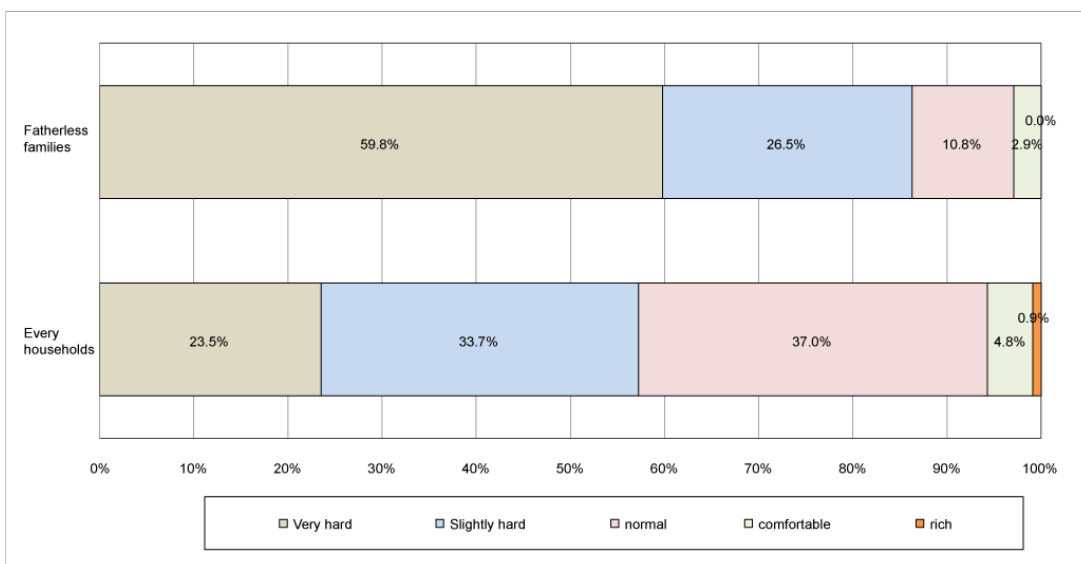
**Figure 2-4-5 The number of application for new jobs in mother of fatherless families in Hello Work.**



#### (4) Consciousness of living

In living consciousness according to the “Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions” of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare 2008, 86.3% of fatherless families feel difficulties in livelihood, the breakdown is “very hard” (59.8%) and “slightly hard” (26.5%), this is a higher ratio in the hardships of life than every household (57.2%) (Chart 2-4-6)

**Figure 2-4-6 Awareness of livingness**



Source: The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Minister's Secretariat, Statistics and Information Dept. "Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions"(2008)

Note 1: "All households" is numerical values of all households including "Single-female-parent household".

Note 2: "Every household" means figures of every household which include "Fatherless Families".

## 2. Efforts to independent support of single-mother households

Many people feel that fatherless families are lower in income and harder in livelihood than general families. As mothers must organize their life while raising their children, as a result, they are not blessed the opportunity to get an employment due to restrictions of time to work or area, or the case is also caused that they are forced to choose an irregular employment as they can not get a regular employment. Besides the opportunity of having vocational ability is not given and it makes hard further to get a job, and They have less employment opportunity in recent tight economic conditions, the employment of fatherless families become more difficult.

Mother's hardship in livelihood of fatherless families is either a problem in health growth of children and a social loss. To have a self-supported life for fatherless families is important for the development of Japanese society from a point of view of a sound growth of children and a capability that a motivated and talented person can exercise their ability.

It is necessary to precede a self-support for that fatherless families can to secure the sound growth of children with stabilizing a life of fatherless families. For that, a support to combine raising children and a career and income or a support to get job

in better conditions in employment conditions are needed. And an economic support to secure a stability of life is important, it is also important to improve the environment that a child support is secured in the households that the are alive but separated.

From these points, general independent support policy of single-mother household is preceded, based on the pillars of raising/livelihood support over welfare and employment in “Enhanced strategy of growth” which was formulated in February 2007 by the government and “From welfare to employment” of the propulsion 5 years program which was compiled by the Ministry of Labor and Welfare in December 2007.

In this part, fatherless families is taken up, however a social support for motherless families in raising and aspect of life is demanded, some policies in this part are aimed at single-father household as a single-parent family.

### **(1) Employment Supports**

We implement the employment support over cooperating with cooperating welfare measures and employment Measures while considering raising and aspect of life under various restrictions of fatherless families.

#### **(Career Consulting and Employment Placement at Hello Work)**

e implement sensitive career consulting and employment placement to fatherless families such as staffing of consultants (in charge of widows) at Hello Work.

To execute the employment support to raising women including mothers of fatherless families who want to get reemployment, we set up mother’s Hello Work, Mother’s Saloon and Mother’s Corner to develop an employment for that they can visit there with children, and we also have implemented the general and consistent supports for reemployment such as securement of employment based on finely tuned career consulting by a system of person in charge or its needs, additionally, providing information of nursery school in cooperation with local governments.

#### **(Employment and Supporting Self-Sufficient Living Center for Fatherless Families)**

The employment and supporting their self-sufficient living center for fatherless families aims to provide consistent employment support such as implementation of employment consulting which is delegated to a welfare association for fatherless families to mothers of fatherless families or a seminar of career support and provide information of employment mainly by local public agencies, it has been implemented in every prefectural and city governments, designated cities and core cities in FY2007. Besides same businesses are going to be implemented in general cities other than designated cities and core cities from FY2008.

**(Staff for Supporting their self-sufficient living of mother and child)**

Put a staff for supporting their self-sufficient living of mother and child as a staff of prefectural, cities and municipalities where Welfare office are established mainly to welfare office, they give consulting and advice of daily chores and Employment and consult with financial problem including living expense, and have a contact with welfare related Agencies, and general support for independent of mother of fatherless families is conducted by providing necessary advice and information with recognizing problems of fatherless families such as employment issue.

**(Coordination with welfare office in fatherless families supporting their self-sufficient living program and Hello Work)**

We will formulate the supporting their self-sufficient living program subject to the recipients of child-care allowance which is correspond to wish of recipients and condition, and we will have close coordination with employment of fatherless families/ supporting their self-sufficient living center and Hello Work to bring employments.

We will put formulator of the mother and child supporting their self-sufficient living program in welfare offices in particular, and execute Interview with the recipients of child-care allowance individually with having coordination with single-mother independence support staff, and acknowledge life situation, motivations for employment and effort to get a qualification to formulate supporting self-sufficient living program correspond to each case and promote independent support steadily to recipients of child-care allowance.



As part of this program, a welfare office which execute the mother and child supporting their self-sufficient living program choose object persons and request employment support to the Hello Work, and “The selected team of employment support plans” which consist of the employment support navigator and the person in charge of welfare office, and has interview with object persons individually, and select the appropriate employment support menu based on the acknowledgement of situation, needs, abilities of object persons. As employment support menu, the supporting navigator at Hello Work provide employment supports such as writing style of resume and the way of having interview, development of individual job offers, accompanying to corporate interview in individual, and also give menus cope with individual conditions of object persons including probation, appointment of seminars of public job training and promotion of educational training of private companies.

Also we formulate “Employment Support Menu” which specifies a concrete schedule of employment activities and conduct “Job Preparation Program” which consists of office on-site training/professional preparation seminar/individual counseling group work, promote willingness to work and provide sensitive employment support.

### **(Supports to business owners to expand opportunities of employment and working)**

To business owners who hire workers continuously by a introduction of Hello Work or employment bureau, especially persons who are hard to get job such as mothers of fatherless families, the employment development subsidy for specified job applicant is provided, the amount to medium-small companies was increased from 600 thousand yen to 900 thousand yen from employment in February 2009 (for short-period workers, increased from 400 thousand yen to 600 thousand yen) (for large companies, 500 thousand yen and 300 thousand yen respectively, unchanged).

And the system which the term based contract worker is changed into normal worker is established in the working regulations, and as for the medium-small employment stabilization incentives which is provided to the medium-small business owners who changed them based on the system, in the case of that the object

workers are fatherless families, the conditions of provision and the amount will be expanded.

Furthermore the trial system (40 thousand yen of the monthly amount to business owners for three months at most ) is also conducted to mothers of fatherless families.

### **(Development of Occupational Skills)**

Mothers of fatherless families miss out on a chance of development of occupational skills, and development of occupational skills is important as it becomes confined in employment. In that case, financial support may be necessary to have a training in peace, occupational trainings which is life-conscious.

In public occupational trainings, the contract training which combines classroom lecture of private educational training facilities including technical school and practical training in companies is conducted. (Dual System that utilize consignment training)

Also “occupational training with preparatory lecture” subject to mothers of fatherless families who receive employment support based on the supporting their self-sufficient living program for fatherless families, which aims to obtain skills and knowledge for professional employment following “preparatory class” as a preparation step for employment. The development of training course and implementation which comply with characteristics of mothers of fatherless families including mental care from 2009.

When training is conducted under the instruction of the director of Public Employment Security Office as financial Support for a training, the system which the period of the basic allowance of unemployment insurance is extended. When mother of fatherless family who has training in Public Employment Security is not qualified in unemployment Insurance, a training allowance is paid based on the Employment Promotion Act. And if the employment insurance can not be paid, 120 thousand yen per month for a person who has dependents By “Training and Life Support Benefit System” if the person meets the requirement such as the person is main Earner of household, the life security for the training period is conducted.

When mothers of fatherless families, who are unqualified of education and training

benefit system in the employment insurance, took a class of education and training and completed, the educational and training benefit for self-sufficient living as a part of expense is paid.

Also, mothers of fatherless families take classes more than two years at a training institution to promote acquisition of effective qualification for economic independence such as a nurse, higher technique promotion expenses was paid for one-third (maximum of 12 months) period in schooling period and a lump-sum payment of admission support was paid to reduce a contribution of admission fee. However in the second supplementary budget of fiscal 2009, the benefit period was expanded to a latter half of schooling period (upper limit 18 months), and the payment amount was raised in the supplementary budget of fiscal 2009 (for nontaxable household of municipal inhabitant's tax, it was raised from 103,000 yen to 141,000 yen per month, for taxable household, from 51,500yen to 70,500 yen), and as for persons who have schooling by the end of fiscal 2011, the payment period was changed to the entire period of schooling.

Furthermore, in the supplementary budget 2009, babysitting services when mothers of fatherless families have Professional training can be provided in Employment/Supporting their self-sufficient living center of fatherless families.

And in the welfare benefit for fatherless families and widows(3), loans for living fund and fund for taking techniques.

## **(2) Measures and policies of life support**

For supporting their self-sufficient living of fatherless families, various supports are conducted such as supporting for life and raising, resolving of problems face with anxieties about health in life, and keeping of mental balance of Children.

### **(Supporting to daily life)**

When temporary assistance of housekeeping and nursing due to school attendance or illness, local public agencies Dispatch a staff to support home life or looking after children at home of a staff.

And when nurturing becomes difficult due to illness or overwork of guardian, the

children can be placed temporary at children's nursing home by a municipality or placed on holiday or at night.

Also the local public agencies conduct a workshop of livelihood support and a consulting of health control, listening Service s for problem of children by sending a support staff to home as a business of general support about the local life.

### **(Facilities for livelihood supporting of fatherless families)**

The facilities for livelihood supporting of fatherless families aim to put mothers and children in the facilities based on the application from mothers and protect them ,when mothers who have children under eighteen year-old and no spouse are hard to raise their children due to various problems on life and work, and support for their self-sufficient living and consult with persons who left there. And conduct daily life guidance, employment placement, and some facilities provide nursing services by staffing nurse.

And when a person who left a facilities of livelihood support for fatherless families take a job or rent an apartment, Local governments implement a relief work of a personal reference to support a self-sufficient living by a director of a facility.

### **(Ensuring of stability of Residence)**

In the status of residence of fatherless families, the house ownership rate is about 35% compare with 61% of every household. Residence is a significant base for life, it is important to develop a supporting system for livelihood by implementing a stability of a residence where fatherless families have the both raising and employment or training for employment.

As for public housing, fatherless families can be preferentially treated such as treating them more advantageously than general applicants in a drawing of residents as fatherless families have especially higher difficulty in housing. In rented accommodations which are controlled by the Urban Renaissance Agency, odds on new leasing are provided benefit, and the employment promoting houses which the employment and Human Resources Development Organization of Japan are rented under a certain conditions to them.

### **(Nursing)**

According to the Security for Children Foundation which was established in 2008, new strategies as the zero-waiting list for nursery schools is conducted ahead of schedule from 2008 to 2010, and acceptance mechanism of 150 thousand children is implemented due to improvement of nursery school. And the foundation is expanded by the supplementary budget for fiscal 2009, and aims to enhance nursing services.

In entrance of nursery school, a guardian choice a nursery school and apply for municipalities, when applicants are above a quota, the applicants are chosen by municipalities based on the preferential standard. As for children of fatherless families, municipalities are required to pay attention to treat them preferentially as they have higher necessity to enter a nursery school.

In sound growth children after school services (children club after school) which guarantees adequate play and life situation by using a children's house or vacant classroom to children whose guardians are not at home daytime for that a guardians can work or have employment activities or professional training, care for that fatherless families can use it preferentially is needed.

### **(3) Financial support to promote a supporting self-sufficient living**

To ensure a sound growth of children with self-supporting sufficient living of mothers of fatherless families, financial support is important in case of a difficulty of employment or lower income. Measures and policies of payment of child-care allowance to promote the stability of life and self-sufficient living, loans to mothers with dependent children for improving financial independence and life motivation and securement of child support.

### **(Child Care Allowance)**

The Child Care Allowance aims to stabilize life of families where children in fatherless families are raised and promote independence, and paid to mother or rearers.

The amount of child care allowance is decided based on income of a recipient and number of dependents, and Total revenue including the child care allowance is

stipulated to increase with increasing income by starting Work. The case of full amount payment is 41,720 yen per month, a part of payment is from 41,710 yen to 9,850 yen per month in increments of 10yen. And 5,000 yen for second born and 3,000 yen for third and later children is added.

### **(Loans to Mothers with Dependent Children)**

Loans to Mothers with Dependent Children is the system which mothers can receive loans from municipalities, designated cities or core cities when mothers of fatherless families need a fund for employment or entering school of children, and there are twelve loans for purpose such as schooling fund, business starting fund and living fund.

It was needed a cosigner to get a loan, loan interest rate is 3 percent or free interest depend on a kind of loan. In the supplementary budget of fiscal 2009, the interest rate of loan in case of a cosigner became free interest and The loan with interest rate of 1.5 percent became available in case of no cosigner. In the fund of technology acquisition and loans of knowledge and technology acquisition including schooling Fund, loan period was expanded from three years to five years at most.

### **(Measure for ensuring of Child Support)**

In fatherless families by divorce, families who made an arrangement with a child support is 38.8%. The reason why they did not make an arrangement is that a partner seemed not to have a will or ability to pay it at 47.0%, highest, and a person do not want to have a contact with a partner is 23.7% and a negotiation could not reach agreement is 9.5%. As for the status of receiving child support, persons who receive it at present is 19.0%, persons who had received is 16.0%, persons who have not received is 59.1%. (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare “Nationwide Survey on Fatherless Families” (2006).

The securement of a child support is not necessary enough, it is important that mother of fatherless families can ensure a child support from father to support themselves financially and rear children healthy.

According to a revision of the Act for the welfare of Fatherless Families and Widows, it was defined that a parent who does not care a child should effort to pay

child support and the country and local public agencies should effort to do an environmental arrangement to get a child support. In the revision of the Civil Execution Act, it became possible to take a compulsory execution for a child support in future when salaries of a partner is seized in the case of default of a child support of which was due, and an environmental arrangement for a securement of a child support is taken.

As a result, the obligation of bringing up children is informed, “Leaflet of Child Support” to proceed an agreement of child support was made and distributed to municipalities. In the employment of fatherless families/supporting self-sufficient living center, special consulting of a lawyer for Child support problem is conducted and consultants who have specialized knowledge for child support are staffed. In the “Consulting and Support Center of Child Support”, information of child support is provided, and Consulting support and training to employment of fatherless families /supporting self-sufficient center are implemented.

~~~~~

Mothers of fatherless families have to make to live with raising children. In starting work, there are many difficulties due to restriction. Supporting for employment as well as raising and livelihood are necessary for mothers of fatherless families to support themselves, it is important to ensure financial support and child support.

Supporting self-sufficient living of fatherless families is important in view of that mothers become a member of society with displaying their abilities as well as for healthy growth of children and happiness of children.

## **Colum**

### **Mother's Hello Work**

As the Hello Work for implementation of reemployment support of women caring for children, the Mother's Hello Work was established in 12 places nationwide from 2006 and provide the following services.

**1. Detailed employment counseling and offers by The appointment system and designated person system.**

The comprehensive and consecutive supports should be conducted such as formulating plan for a realization of reemployment cope with desire and conditions of individual job applicants.

**2. Ensuring of job offer which is easy to keep working while raising children.**

Collecting and providing of job information for keeping work easily while raising children, and development of job offers which comply with desires and needs of job applicants is conducted.

**3. Collecting and providing of child-care related information by a cooperation institutions which support women caring for children.**

Providing information and agency business for entering nursery school of nursery school and supporting services of raising children.

**4. Enhancement of environments, facilities and services which are child-friendly to visit and consult.**

Setting up kids corner and baby chair to be child-friendly facilities, and ensure a space where person with children have job counseling, and arrange environments with a lay-out for user's position to visit easily. And seminar with a child care center, on-site seminar at facilities of raising children in local area and on-site consulting are conducted.

Also setting up the Mother's saloons at major Hello Work (each one in 36 prefectures) where Mother's Hello Work have not set up, and the Mother's Corners (100 places nationwide) are set up at Hello Work in core cities where the services have not implemented.



Two cases what detailed supports to mothers of fatherless families were conducted and got a job in Mother's Hello Work are described.

**<Ms. A who became suddenly mother of fatherless families>**

Ms. A, who was pressed to divorce unilaterally, moved recently to seek a job and has no relatives and unfamiliar with the place, and visited the Mother's Hello Work. The Mother's Hello Work conducted detailed employment counseling five times by a designated person system. She applied an offer for which 17 persons applied, and she was adopted as a regular member as her strong will to job that she was advised to appeal "All the reason for fatherless families, she wanted to work longer" touched the business owner.

**<A case of Ms. B shortly in early days of a childbirth>**

Ms. B who has a four-month baby quit the previous office for a childbirth and became a fatherless family later. When eight weeks had passed from childbirth, she came to the Hello Work and wanted to get a job early. The Mothers Hello Work provided information of nursery school neighborhood, however nursery schools were filled, and the nursery mom service was informed, and the job information of the construction industry where she had experienced when she found a nursery school. As a result, Ms. B applied for a leading construction company who has renewed a contract as a contract employee has continued, has an experience that a employee changed to a permanent staff as a comprehensive work and has a willingness to adopt women, and was adopted.

After Ms. B was adopted, the Mother's Hello Work advises unique temporary nursery services of local government where a person lives and arrangement of home-help services for a single-parent family.

## **Colum**

### **Citation of prime companies who facilitate employment of mothers of fatherless families**

#### **(Citation to a company who support working mothers of fatherless families)**

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare established the citation system for prime companies who address employment of mothers of fatherless families, and recognize companies once a year who actively tackle employment of mothers of fatherless families hire a number of mothers of fatherless families, order business to welfare organization of fatherless families.

In fiscal 2008, 10 foundations were recognized, one of which is a medical corporation, Kyuujinkai Naruto Yamagami Hospital in Naruto City in Tokushima Prefecture.

The Naruto Yamagami Hospital addresses a rehabilitation and treatment of aged persons, totaling of all department 301 staffs are working, twenty of them are mothers of fatherless families, most persons work as full time staffs.

As for part time staffs, the way for full time staffs is given by supporting obtain licenses such as nursery or care worker. Since 1977 when the hospital was established, the Nursery school was set up in the hospital, and create the environment to support working with raising children, additionally, persons who released from night work until a raising child become one-year old, and can choose shorter working time than regular time for a fixed period if a person in raising a child want, the hospital support the working system.

Besides the Health and Safety Committee was established, the environment that mothers who is raising children can consult with a committee in each division about a change of working time, it enable them to work anomalously based on each conditions not to establish unified standards about age and schooling of children.

For the period of these working, the conditions of full time staff is not changed, a consideration is paid not to bring disadvantages in careers progress that the period is calculated as services years.

As a company who addresses actively to create a child-friendly environment, the Naruto Yamagami Hospital took a certification Of "Tokushima Prefecture Hagukumi

supporting company” in January 2008, and received the citation of prefecture governor.

## **Colum**

### **The Child Support Consultation Center**

The center provides information about child care and consults with fatherless families by phone and e-mail, and conduct support difficult problems which were received in the employment and supporting their self-sufficient center for fatherless families conducted by local public agencies , and training for cultivation of human resources to cope with consultation of child support in nationwide municipalities.

The operation of the Child Support Consultation Center has been consigned to the Family Problem Information Center (FPIC).

The Child Support Consultation Center

〒170-6005 Sunshine 60, 5t floor,3-1-1, Higashi-Ikebukuro0-6005

Phone consultation 03-3980-4108 (Monday to Saturday 10:00-20:00)

Mail consultation [info@youikuhi.or.jp](mailto:info@youikuhi.or.jp)

Website <http://www1.odn.ne.jp/fpic/youikuhi/index.html>

### **<Consultation case of the Child support consultation center>**

A case that the notarized document was made with a negotiation with ex-husband.

A phone consultation from a mother of fatherless families. “I divorced upon mutual agreement three years ago, but I did not decide child support as I did not want to fight about money. Recently my part time job has been decreased, I began to think to get child support from ex-husband as child support and meal expenses are increased because children became 14 years and 9 years.

The ex-husband is earnest about job and has regular income. Can I claim the child support now?

A consultant explained as follows and encourages her to strive for getting child

support.

“You can claim child support anytime until your children are grown up and care for themselves. However look From the other person's standpoint, he may get angry and flustered and not comply with the claim. At first, I recommend that you inform him your hard situation and a child support is an important bonding between father and children in separated living in a letter. When he comply with negotiation, it is important to make a notarized document in advance.

After two months passed, the consultant called. “I had negotiation with ex-husband several times. He did not accept

My request at first, however I explained him with patience as the consultant advised me, he promised to pay a certain amount which is less than my expectation. And we went to the notary public office to make a notary document. The children wrote a postcard to him. As I did not think that I could do so much, I am very glad and got confident a bit.

**<A case that a consuler took a procedures of Execution by her own against the ex-husband in default of child support.>**

A consultation by e-mail from a mother of fatherless family. “The child support was decided in arbitration. However the payment had been conducted about for the first year. Four year have passed, I have not heard from him. I do not know his address even if I urge payment. At first, I explained the way of confirmation of debtor's address. The second mail is the following, “I got his address by taking a family register” I explained the procedures of execution admonition and forcible execution as a method of ensuring execution. The third mail is the following. “The family court conducted the execution admonition, but payment had not made. I ask you to tell me details of procedures of forcible execution. I explained the specific procedures, the fourth mail came after six months passed, it is said that she could make the allegation of execution.

“I went to the family court and the local court many times to prepare documents. It took time as I could not go there due to something of children. I wanted to leave it several times, but a person in charge advised me kindly. It is important not to give up.”

## **Colum**

### **Kanagawa Prefecture Yokohama City**

In Yokohama city, the welfare and health centers in 18 wards take a job assistance of single mother in coordination with the “Yokohama employment and supporting their self-sufficient Living center of fatherless families which was established in 2006.

Actually, a case worker hear from a person who came to the welfare and health center to take a procedure of child-care allowance and consultation, and understand employment needs from consultation and introduce willing worker to the supporting self-sufficient living center.

In the supporting self-sufficient center, five supporting staff of employment of fatherless families, the supporting staff formulate “Employment Supporting Plan” with sharing information with case worker in the ward office based on inclination, qualification and experience of a consulter.

In supporting, staff accompanies a person depending on a situation when an object person goes to the Hello Work, and efforts to give detailed support such as phone consultation, interview, correction of resume man-on-man.

The supporting staff informs a supporting status to a ward office accordingly to confirm the conditions of object person each other at any time, and also exchanges information with Hello Work (Mother’s Hello Work).

As for ensuring job, the Supporting Their Self-Sufficient Living Center obtained the license of employment placement in FY 2007 and efforts to develop recruiting.

At that time, the subsidy system to company who adopted a single mother is introduced to a company on recruiting side, and tries to promote understanding of the life situation of single-parent families.

In FY 2009, a system to rent a suit for interview started for a person who is taking interview at no charge.

Persons who need support have been diversified from who do not understand what should be done at first for employment to who aim to move up such as obtaining license and job change to a regular employee.

The issue in the future is enhancement of the employment supporting seminar

depend on individual status and skill, further securing and diversification of line of job, and the services is expected to improve to link with employment as much as possible.

## **Colum**

### **Nonprofit Organizations**

The Wink (hereinafter called “Wink”) heads up the information website “Fatherless Family Republic” for single mothers from December 1997 and has operated as a voluntary organization. However it became a nonprofit organization to appeal the strict circumstances surrounding single mothers and conducts various consulting business, information provision and employment support business at present.

The Wink corresponds delicately to various problems to which single mothers face thanks to cooperation of membership companies and supporting members, and conducts ①information transmission via the Internet, ②surveys and publishing of negotiations of divorce and child support, ③consulting, ④housing support、⑤ employment support. Pick up ③ consulting business, ④ housing support, ⑤ employment support.

In the consulting business, interview, e-mail and phone counseling are taken to problems of single mothers, and some of them are taken over by specialist including a lawyer or a counselor if needed. Especially, the child support problem is focused at present, the Wink made a 10-year plan from 2002 and is promoting to secure child supports, and hold symposium on April 19 as the Child Support Day.

In a housing support, the apartment for single mothers “Mommy and House” was opened in March 2008. “Mommy and House” is different from a dormitory for mothers and children where the available period is limited and they can live there until they find job or expect a self-supporting. “Mommy and House” was originally operated by membership companies and the Wink joined as an advisor. However it became impossible to keep the business by companies, the business is taken over by the Wink after reviewing the number of resident households and site locations to leave it as a model business to cope with a serious problem of housing securement

of single mothers.

In an employment support, the Eight Partners, which is a membership company and operates a placement business, conducts Employment support activities. Users who want to have an employment support register “Hapishare” at first, and interviews are available. The number of registered users on the website is over 200 as of December 2008.

Most popular job which users want is a clerk, however there are few jobs of clerk and many jobs are sales related. The Wink think “that many jobs are sales related has a good aspect for users”. Especially insurance salespersons are able to career up and will be stable in income by aiming the qualification of financial planner. In the employment activities, they advise users that it is important to think what kind of skill should be taken and they search job in a view of long time not the idea to take a clerk job for the meantime.

And “it is important to continue these sparse activities, and it is appreciated that single mothers who had support join corporate activities on the supporting side”, the Wink expect that the approach to fatherless families problem will expand nationwide in the future.