

OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

March 2025 Vol. 25 No. 3

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka geino Ka (B1) 26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-8501



Announcement

Inaugural Message from New Mayor Of Okinawa City

就任のごあいさつ 沖縄市長

In the recently held Okinawa City mayoral election, I was elected as the 14th Mayor of Okinawa City by the trust of many citizens.

I feel a heavy responsibility as a city administrator of Okinawa City, which has a strong presence as a unique city with more than 140,000 residents, but I also feel a sense of duty to live up to the high expectations of the citizens and all other quarters.

In this election, I promised the citizens of Okinawa City that we would further advance and develop the city under the slogan "Inherit the City Government" and was entrusted with the management of the city government from now on. The Okinawa Arena, which boasts some of the best facilities in Japan, Okinawa Zoo, which will create new tourism value for Okinawa, and the Tidal Forest "Shio-no-Mori", which will enhance the appeal of the East Coast, will serve as landmarks for our city and drive the revitalization of the entire city area. In the future, we will do our utmost to further improve the welfare of citizens by promoting not only the maximum use and maintenance of landmarks, but also community development centered on neighborhood associations, the promotion of sports conventions, measures against child poverty, measures to expand the potential of children who will shine in the future, and support to encourage women and young people to play an active role in the community.

For the next four years, I will carry on the legacy of former Mayor Kuwae, and with a "heart of love and humility," I will work sincerely and to the best of my ability on each and every projects, valuing teamwork with employees, and being determined to further develop Okinawa City so that the citizens of Okinawa City can be proud of their city and be glad they chose me as their mayor. I sincerely ask for your understanding and support as I begin my term of office.

Daisuke Hanashiro
Okinawa City Mayor

第14代沖縄市長に 花城大輔氏が初当選



Total Population: 141,727

[Japanese Population] Male: 67,474 Female: 72,008
[Foreign Population (62 Countries)] Male: 1,331 Female: 914



The Okinawa City Hall's Bunka Geino Ka (the Culture & Traditional Arts Division) selects excerpts from the city's public relations newsletter (Koho Okinawa) and published them in English in hopes of better serving our community of residents who may have difficulty reading or understanding Japanese. **These articles are translated by the Culture & Traditional Arts Division staff and are provided for reference only. Services are provided in Japanese only (unless otherwise indicated).** For English support, please email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp. You can also view monthly issues of the newsletters and other information about living in Okinawa City by clicking the ENGLISH link on the Okinawa City website: <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/>

Service For family with Children

Subsidies For The Use of Non-approved Childcare Facilities For Single-parent Families, etc.

ひとり親家庭などの認可外保育施設保育料補助制度



Subsidizes the fees for single-parent families to use non-approved childcare facilities (Mothers or fathers of single-parent families who have registered their address in Okinawa City and meet all three of the following requirements) :The subsidy will be provided up to a maximum of 33,000 yen per month, which is the amount obtained by subtracting the fee for non approved daycare facility used by the child from the fee if the child attended an approved child care.

① Parents or guardians who meet the eligibility requirements for the Child Rearing Allowance or the Medical Care Support for Children Program for Single Parents.

② Parents or guardians of the child who has been qualified for childcare needs by Okinawa city

③ The guardian of the children on waiting lists or using non approved daycare due to the capacity is full in approved nursery schools

Application period :By the month prior to the month in which you wish to receive assistance

Past claims not available

What to bring: ①Child Allowance certificate (児童扶養手当受給者証) **or** ②the Medical Care Support for Children Program for Single Parents certificate (沖縄市母子及び父子家庭等医療費受給者証) ③Notification of grant approval (支給認定通知書)

④Okinawa Prefecture Certificate of Use of non-approved Childcare Facility Utilization Support Services for Single Parent Families (沖縄県ひとり親家庭認可外保育施設利用支援事業利用証明書)

Where to apply : 2 F **Hoiku Yochien Ka** (Child Care/ Kindergarten Division) Ext. 3172

Additional Meal Support Benefit for Supplemental Meals (Private Kindergartens)

私立幼稚園給食費の補助

If you satisfy any of the requirements for eligibility, submit the application form before the closing date. The supplemental meals out of the school lunch fees you paid to the private kindergarten will be covered. Including Seibo Yochien, Koza Seibo Yochien, Outside of Okinawa City Area.

Application Period: From March 3 (Mon) to March 31 (Mon), 2025.

Where to Submit: **Hoiku Yochien Ka** (Child Care/ Kindergarten Division) 2F, Okinawa City Hall

Contact: Hoiku Yochien Ka (Child Care/ Kindergarten Division) Ext. 3174 (ask for details and eligibility)

▶ Initial Application For Nursery School Tuition Coverage Service 幼児教育・保育無償化の新規申請受付

If you are currently using or plan to use the eligible facility for the tuition coverage service and wish to be certified for the nursery school tuition coverage, you need to apply at Nursery School/Kindergarten Division.

Eligible Child: Those who are in need of childcare and also meet the condition below.

-The child in residential tax-exempt household and also belongs to 0-2 years old class.

-The child who belongs to 3-5 years old class.

* Age shall be considered as of April 1, 2025.

*Application is not required for those who are already certified for the service use.



Eligible Facilities/Projects:

Non-approved nursery schools, temporary day care, sick-kids care, or family support center, after-hour daycare service at private kindergartens & certified childcare institution, private kindergartens (Which are not eligible for education/childcare benefit for children).

Application Period:

-Those who wish to be certified on **April 1, 2025** have to apply by no later than between Monday, March 3 and Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

-Those who wish to be certified **other than April 1, 2025** have to apply after a month prior to the month being covered.

▲Okinawa City Official Website **Contact:** **Hoiku Yochien Ka** (Nursery School/Kindergarten Division) Ext. 3173/3174

▶ FY2025 Okinawa City Schools Lunch Fee Aid For The Third Child

学校給食費助成金 (第3子以降)

In order to support parents with multiple children, Okinawa City provides financial support for school lunch fees. This aid is provided to the third child and every child born after. You must apply for this service every year. Please make sure you don't forget to apply.

Eligible Children: Children in the family who are

the third child or younger out of siblings who go to elementary and junior high school.

Requirements to receive aid: Children must be Okinawa City residents. They must not be receiving public assistance or meet the standards to receive public assistance.

Application period: Applications submitted by Wednesday, April 30 will be subsidized from the April school lunch expenses.

Applications submitted after May 1 will be subsidized from the month following the month of submission.

March 3, 2025 (Mon) – Feb 10, 2026(Tue)

Application form: You can get it at your children's school or you can also download it from the Okinawa City website. *You need to apply for the aid each year.

Where to apply: Your third child's school office

Contact: Okinawa City **Gakko Kyushoku Center**
(School Lunch Center) TEL: 098-929-4776



**▶ Please Note: 納付期限のお知らせ**

March is the payment deadline for the following taxes:

Long-term care insurance premium (10th term)/ **Medical care for the elderly insurance premium** (9th term). If you use automatic bank transfers, payments will be withdrawn on **31 March 2025**

Make sure you have enough money in your bank account the day before!!

Tax-Exempt Household Support Benefit

非課税世帯支援給付金

This is a guide to the benefit of 30,000 yen to households exempt from residence tax for the fiscal year 2024 in order to alleviate the burden caused by soaring prices. If there is a child under 18 years old in the eligible household, the additional benefit for the child will be provided.

A procedure is required to receive benefits.

Eligible Household**Requirements for the Benefit:**

Must be registered in Okinawa City as of the reference date (December 13, 2024).

All members of the household must be exempt from residence tax for the fiscal year 2024.

※The following households are not eligible:

- Households in which all members of the household are dependent on other relatives, etc., who are subject to individual residential tax.
- Households receiving benefits under the low-income support quota of the “R6 Temporary Grant as Priority Assistance Responding to Rising Prices-R6物価高騰対応重点支援地方創生臨時交付金” under the Comprehensive Economic Measures (approved by the Cabinet on November 22, 2024) from other municipalities.
- Households in which there is a person in the household who has income subject to individual residential tax but has not yet filed a tax return.

Amount of Benefit:

30,000 yen per household

※If a household eligible for the benefit has a dependent child under 18 years old (born on or after April 2, 2006), an additional 20,000 yen will be added per child. (Additional benefit for children)

Procedures:

The city has sent a “confirmation letter (Return by post required)” to those who may be eligible for the benefit.

Please apply online or fill out the confirmation form and mail it back.

※Applying on line will be faster to receive the benefit compare to those done by mail or at the counter

Where to Get the Application Form:

Tax-Exempt Household Support Benefit Administrative Section, 5F Okinawa City Hall/Okinawa City Hall Official Website

How to Apply Online:

You can apply online with a link indicated on the confirmation form that was mailed from the city hall.

**When You Receive Benefit:**

Approximately 30 days from the day the city hall received your confirmation form.

Application Deadline: Monday, June 30, 2025 ※Must arrived by post

給付金を装った詐欺にご注意ください!!

Beware of scams posing as benefits!

Please beware of “bank transfer scams” regarding benefits and “exploitation of personal information, bankbooks, cash cards, and PINs”. If you become suspicious, please contact the nearest police station or the dedicated police consultation line (#9110) as soon as possible.

Contact : Tax-Exempt Household Support Benefit Administrative Section

非課税世帯支援給付金担当

Office Hours: M-F 8:30-17:15 *Closed on weekends and Japanese holidays

TEL: 098-929-3011

※English Speaker is Available.

Phrases:

令和7年度：令和7年4月1日から令和8年3月31日まで

Reiwa nana nendo: Reiwa nana nen shi gatsu tsuitachi kara Reiwa hachi nen san gatsu sanju-ichi nichi made FY 2025: From April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

▶ You can apply Individual Number Cards at your local community association.

マイナンバーカード出張申請受付

(Please apply with Japanese speaker)

You can apply for a My Number card at your local community association, etc.

*City Hall is the place to receive your **My Number Card** after you have applied for it.

Date: March 8 (Sat) Murokawa Community Association
(室川自治会・Murokawa Jichikai)

Time: 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Eligibility:

For Citizens of Okinawa who have never had their My Number Card made.

City Residential Division My-number

Project team, Ext.5202,5203

Okinawa City Hall will be **Closed** from

March 20 (Thu)

as Vernal Equinox Holiday (春分の日).

▶ The Public Health Checkup voucher & Group checkup in FY 2025!

「市民集団健診」

Please check your mail box for the health checkup voucher for Health Checkups for the age of 40 – 74(特定健診)/ Health Checkups for the age of 75 years and over(長寿健診)/General Health Checkup(一般健診)/ Cancer Checkup(がん検診), which will be sent in the middle March 2025.

Please make a reservation at the designated medical facilities or group checkup scheduled below as soon as you receive the voucher.

Voucher valid between April 1, 2025 and March 31st 2026.

【Group Health Checkup Schedule】

Period of Checkups: April-July, October-January in the following year

How to Apply: Call or visit Okinawa city hall or through online.

For details, please refer to the health checkup guide enclosed with your instruction in an envelope.

Group Checkup schedule

April 26 (SAT) 2025: Okinawa City Hall 08:00am to 11:00am

April 27 (SUN) 2025: Okinawa City Hall 08:00am to 11:00am

Application Deadline: Friday, April 11, 2025

*After you made a reservation, you will receive a package contains a reservation slip, urine and stool containers for examination, etc. from medical examination center in advance to the checkup.

▲Link to the group checkup online reservation (Reservation available after middle of March)

Contact for Group Checkup Reservation: Shimin Kenko Ka (Residents Health Division) Ext.2245.2246

▶ Individual Number Cards Will be Issued on the Weekend & Night Hours Shown Below

マイナンバーカードの休日及び平日夜間交付

In addition to weekdays, the City Residential Division will be open on the following date to issue individual number cards.

Night Hours Mar 5,12,19,26 (Wed) 17:15-19:30

Weekends March 15 (Sat) March 2 & Apr 6 (Sun)

9:00-11:30 *Available only in the morning.

Where: City Residential Division My-number counter, Okinawa City Hall 1F Ext.3128

The voucher for public health checkup in FY2024 will expire on Monday, March 31, 2025.

令和6年度受診券の有効期限は3月31日(月)です。(市民健康課)

Contact: Shimin Kenko Ka (Residents Health Division) Ext 2246

Vaccination Against Shingles (Helps Zoster)

帯状疱疹ワクチン

The regular vaccination against shingles/helps zoster(帯状疱疹), which is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, will begin in April.

Eligible Citizens in FY2025

-Those who reach 65 of age in FY2025 (between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026)

-Those in 60-65 of age and have disorder in their immune function caused by HIV.

-Those who reach 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 or 100* of age in FY2025 (between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026)

(*Those who reach at age of 100 and over, are eligible regardless of their age only in FY 2025.

As soon as the details such as vaccination period or the cost are determined, they will be informed on our newsletter, official website and SNS (LINE, Facebook).

▲Okinawa City Official Website

Contact: Child Consultation-Health Division (こども相談健康課)(Ext.2232/2233)



Okinawa City Library News 図書館だより

Book readings & hand games: Saturdays, March 8, 15, & 22 starting at 3:00 pm

address: 2-28-1 Chuo, Okinawa City BC KOZA (1F) TEL: 098-929-4919



Would you like our newsletters emailed or mailed to you? Let us know! Visit our website NOW!

Email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp

You can also visit, call or fax us at:

Okinawa-shi Yakusho

Bunka Geino Ka

沖縄市役所 文化芸能課 (B1)

26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa
Tel: (098) 929-0261 FAX: (098) 923-3485



Koza International Plaza

4-1-3 Chuo, Nankai Product Building

1st Floor Okinawa City

TEL 098-989-9767

Email: kipokinawa@gmail.com

Mon-Fri :10:00-19:00/ Sat: 10:00~ 17:00

*Closed on Sundays and Japanese holidays.

All services are provided in JAPANESE ONLY (unless otherwise indicated). For postal and emailing services, or any inquiries in ENGLISH, please email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp

Support Service Hours: 9:30-15:30 (Mon-Fri)

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Geino Ka (B1) 26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-8501