

# Public Assistance System FAQs (Seikatsu Hogo)

## (Gifu Prefectural Regional Welfare Division)

**Q1** I am currently unemployed and looking for work, but I haven't found a job yet. I have no income to support my living costs and no savings. Is there a point of contact I can consult with about my situation?

**A1**

If you live in a city, you can contact the welfare division in your local city hall, and if you live in a town or village, you can contact the welfare division at a prefectural office. (If you live in a town or village in the Gifu area, you can contact the Gifu Regional Welfare Office.)

**Q2** Can foreign nationals living in Gifu receive public assistance payments?

**A2**

Foreign nationals with permanent residence status, such as the status of "permanent resident" or "spouse or child of a Japanese national", etc. can qualify for public assistance. Contact the municipal office in your place of residence as indicated on your residence card.

**Q3** How long does it take from the time of application until a decision is made on whether or not I will public assistance?

**A3**

When an application for public assistance is received, a decision regarding the eligibility of the applicant is made within 14 days, following an assessment which includes a visit and a survey of assets, etc. (within 30 days in the event of surveys, etc. requiring a date and time to be arranged).

**Q4** Until when will I receive public assistance?

**A4**

Public assistance payments will be discontinued when you no longer meet the requirements to receive them. For example, in the event that you find a job and have an income that exceeds the welfare payments.

**Q5** I have been told that upon applying for public assistance, my relatives will be contacted. What does this mean?

**A5**

As a general rule, in order to assess whether they are able to provide you with financial assistance, family members who have a responsibility to support you, e.g. parents, children or siblings will be contacted. In cases where there has been domestic violence, abuse or there is no contact between yourself and family members, please inform someone involved in your application.

**Q6** In order to receive public assistance, do I need to give up my vehicle?

**A6**

As a general rule, you will be required to relinquish your vehicle. However, in some cases you may be permitted to own a car or other vehicle, such as cases in which a person with a disability or a person who lives in an area with limited public transport uses the vehicle to commute. Please consult with your local welfare office about this.

**Q7** Am I able to own a mobile phone or air conditioner?

**A7**

Owning a mobile phone is possible, but you cannot receive an allowance to purchase or maintain one.

Regarding air conditioners, installation costs may only be covered for those who are newly signing on for public assistance payments, so please consult with your local welfare office about this.