

Challenge! Open Governance 2016 Application Form for Citizens & Students

Title of Regional Issue*	No.	Title	Name of Municipality
	For the secretariat	Promotion of family-based care	Nakano Ward
Name of Idea (public)	“Childcare” and “foster parent systems” linked with the community – Childcare supporters, from mother-only support to family support and to foster parenting -		

*Enter the title of regional issue of the applying municipality as described in COG2016 website.

1. Applicant Information

Name of the team (public)	Challenge Nakano! Grow a Happy Family & Community		
Team attribution (public)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1. 市民によるチーム <input type="radio"/> 2. 学生によるチーム <input type="radio"/> 3. 市民、学生の混成によるチーム		
Team leader (only the name will be public)	Name (public)	Naoki Saito	
	e-mail (private)		
	Telephone no. (private)		
	Relation with the municipality (private)		

※Conditions for information disclosure

Information provided in “2. Description of Idea” beginning on the next page will be disclosed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (CC BY 4.0) after confirmation of its contents. At the request of the applicant, however, such information will be disclosed under the CC BY-NC (Attribution – Noncommercial) 4.0 International license. Please let us know your preference at the time of application. In both cases, the name of the applying team will be used.

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(Notes)

<Name of the file for application and addressee>

- Send the file with the filename COG2016_applicationform_teamname_municipalityname to the address below. You can also access this address via the application registration column on the COG2016 website of the Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo: admin_padit_cog2016@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp

<Public or private information>

- The name of the idea, name of the team, team attribution, name of the team leader, and “description of idea” will be open to the public.
- The contents above will be reviewed before disclosure (anything which is harmful to public order, unethical, or making use of a plagiarized idea will not be disclosed).
- The “self-evaluation” column of the application form will not be disclosed. However, if the content is excellent and deemed useful for other applicants, it may be disclosed after consultation during the advice stage after the open review.
- If any element associated with an intellectual property right whose holder is not a member of the applying team, such as texts, photographs, and graphics, is included in the “description of idea,” it should be demarcated stating that it is quoted according to the relevant laws and regulations or that its use has been approved by the right holder. Please do the same for the “self-evaluation” column.

<List of the team members>

- Submit the list of the team members in the attached Excel file (Any information about members other than the team leader as specified in 2. above will not be disclosed except to the COG Secretariat. Please see the attachment for details).

2. Description of Idea (public)

Specify the issue to be addressed by making effective use of data and materials and tell the story of the idea for the issue's solution (i.e., public services).

(1) Contents of the Idea (public)

Specify who, what, where, when, and how you have created your ideas, and incorporate this into the development of your story. Fill in the column given below (graphics may be included as necessary).

“Childcare” and “foster parent systems” linked with the community – Childcare supporters, from mother-only support to family support and to foster parenting =

I have drawn many key findings from my foster parenting experiences:

First, children at institutions live with a feeling that they are “**abandoned**” and “**unwanted**.”

Second, some parents give away their children after much suffering, since they “**cannot live together, however strongly they want to do so.**”

Third, administrative staff experience a reserved sadness as they “**have no way of helping children, no matter how much they want to do so.**”

In today's Japan, **about 46,000** children are separated from their family for various reasons and **more than 80% of them are consigned to children's institutions**. In many cases, they grow up from infancy to age 18 at institutions without role models or family members supported by **70 – 80 million yen per child** in taxpayers' money. In some cases, mental problems caused by separation from their parents or abuse result in **drug dependence, psychiatric disorder, crime, or even living on welfare** after they become independent. Even when they are offered a scholarship for high-level schools, they tend to **drop out** because of the difficulty of combining education with part-time jobs. Even if they are officially employed, **as many as 40% leave their job within the first year**. Under these situations, society is becoming overly burdened.

This parent-child issue is one of the social issues that might affect the future of all taxpayers.

What should be done to solve this problem?

■ Foster parents are a cheering squad for children. They watch children's sound development without parental authority.

It is best to minimize separation from parents and abuse, which might traumatize children, and increase support for parents and children who can live happily in the community. To that end, we need to increase the prevalence of foster parents. They are valuable assets as **community supporters** who can care for children so that they can grow up in a family setting and as **nurturing parents** without parent authority in the case that family-based care is difficult.

When children are separated from their parents and deprived of all connections with community, school, and friends, imagine how heavily they might be harmed. Growing up at a foster home while keeping relations within the community will provide a firm psychological foundation for their future.

■ “Family support to foster parenting” - A new lifestyle which could be realized by transferring the responsibility of a child guidance center to respective wards

In the old days of Japan, we used to have the generous attitude of “**raising children by society**.” If foster parenting, which has been deemed heavily burdening and challenging, is given the approach of such community-based childcare, each community member can play a part more casually. By **organizing a phased transfer from family support to foster parenting**, citizens can become involved as supporters in their own way and depending on their experiences. If helping citizens join and cooperate and help them to develop from childcare supporters to nurturing parents effortlessly, then we could create a **new way of working for old and new mothers**.

Protecting childhood is an investment in the future!

Children's feeling of satisfaction that “I was raised under a warm support” will increase their sense of self-affirmation and make them feel happy, motivating them to show their appreciation to parents and communities. This must be a driving force for them to work energetically and become **sound taxpayers** in the future. It also provides the best solution for **reducing future financial burdens on society, increasing income sources, and developing a sustainable society**.

We need to improve childcare support by developing more foster parents through a step-by-step approach from mother support to family support and to foster parenting, so that their home town Nakano can be developed into a place for children to come back in peace and raise their own children.



(2) Grounds for the idea (public)

Describe the grounds for your idea (why have you chosen this idea?) with numerical data (achievements, statistics, or questionnaire results) and evidence (materials, plans, or existing measures) that support the idea (collectively, the “data”). Identify the sources of numerical data and evidence. Fill in the two-page column below.

1) Issue of society-based care

[Current situation]

- 1) Increase in child abuse cases and lack of places to accept abused children: FY2014 - Reported abuse cases **88,931** vs. Accepted cases **45,677**
Source: “Issue of society-based care and achievement of future visions” July, 2016, Community Welfare and Services Division, Equal Employment, Child and Family Policy Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare
- 2) Cost per institutionalized child: Institution **ca. 4-7 mil yen/year** vs. Foster parent **ca. 2-3 mil yen/year**
Calculation basis: Answer to the question 1-3/Answer to the written questions raised by Reiko Ueda, a member of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, at its 2nd regular meeting in 2015; No. 11 of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly minutes for FY 2015.
- 3) Institution vs. foster parent: **34,008** vs. **5,903 (incl. family-based)**
Source: “Issue of society-based care and achievement of future visions” July, 2016, Community Welfare and Services Division, Equal Employment, Child and Family Policy Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare
- 4) Issues of caring at institutions:
 - Difficult to acquire “**skills to live through dealing with family members and other society members**” in a family setting
 - Difficult to meet **adults to build lasting relationships with** (parent-like guardians) necessary for identity development (affinity with institution staff, staff’s transfer/resignation, move from infant institution to children’s institution, etc.)
 - Forced to **live in society independently** upon turning 18 and thus inability take steps to stand up for oneself that children in ordinary families can take
 - After separation from parents and acceptance by institution, children lose all their connections with the community, their school, and their friends—all of which are important parts in their growth. This is highly likely to traumatize them.
 - Traumatized children have a harder time living together, causing problems in institutions.

⇒ As a result, children often end up on welfare after leaving institutions, causing a cycle of poverty.

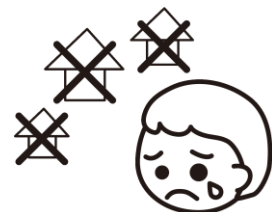
Turnover rate within the first year of employment: **40.6%** / welfare reception rate (on/off): **13.9%**
“Report on the questionnaires for those who have left children’s institutions, etc. in Tokyo” August, 2011, Welfare and Healthcare Bureau, Tokyo Metropolitan Government

[Problems that might occur in the near future]

- 5) Shortage of places to accept children in need due to responsibility transfer to each ward
- 6) Shortage of foster parents (family-based care resources)

<Case of Nakano Ward> Out of about 310,000 residents

- Reported abuse case: **485** FY2015 Nakano Ward Child and Family Support Center
- Registered foster parents: **12 families**
- Infant institution – 2 (Quota – **170**) Children’s institution – 2 (Quota – **100**)



[General issues of child-raising in modern society]

1) Increase in **child abuse cases: FY1995 – 1,961 → FY2015 – 103,260 (ca. 50 times more only for two decades!)**

“Issue of society-based care and achievement of future visions,” “No. of child abuse cases that the child guidance centers were consulted in FY2015 (preliminary figures),” Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare.

2) Increase in single-parent/nuclear families:

Three-generation family Of all households, 15.3% (FY1986) → 6.6% (FY2013)

Single-parent family Of all households, 5.1% (FY1986) → 7.2% (FY2013)

“Household status in graphics – From the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions for FY2014” Statistics and Information Department of the Minister’s Secretariat at the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare

3) Isolated child-raising could drive mothers into the corner to abuse children (NHK Special “Mothers in Emergency” as broadcasted in 2016)

⇒ Mothers' sense of desolation, no place to escape/no time to rest, concerns over having no knowledge/techniques of child-raising

2) Solutions

To improve local child-raising environments by combining existing child-raising support systems (family support system and foster parent system) and to develop a cycle of “identifying, developing and utilizing potential resources hidden in the community.”

<Expected effects> ★Children’s happiness depends on the circumstances of their upbringing★

○ **Reduction of social costs**

- A child’s sound development will reduce social costs (welfare, etc.) and nurture **sound taxpayers**.
- Enhancing foster parenting could reduce the costs of operating institutions.

○ **Community revitalization**

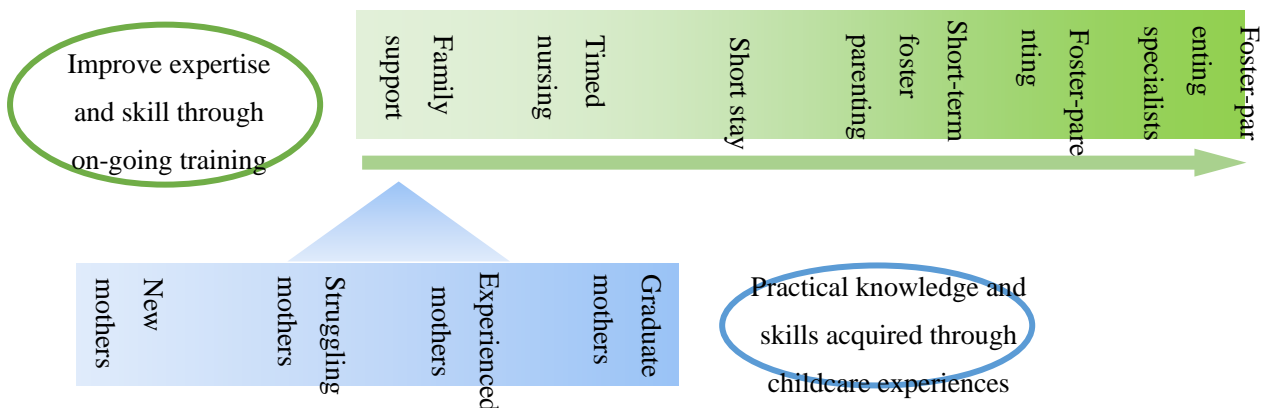
- Community-wide **positive cycle of sound child-raising and development** could nurture love for the community.
- **A more attractive place to live for child-raising generations** promotes inflow of new residents.

[Hidden resources and utility value]

	Hidden power in community/home	Utility value as resources
1	Practical knowledge and techniques for child-raising	Give practical advice in time of need that standard knowledge available from books cannot give
2	Offering free time and labor for support	Create free time for busy mothers: Mothers can have a little time for other activities or time to rest as needed.
3	Physical space at individual homes	Safe and secure place for children
4	Ability to give emotional support through empathy and a sense of connectedness as a person concerned or a veteran mother	Reduce/eliminate loneliness and anxiety by “having their difficulties/sufferings understood”
5	Listening ability nurtured through child-raising	Cannot ask for/find out helping hands: → Identify issues and risks
6	Expertise and skill acquired through training individually designed for foster parents	Expertise and skill for child-raising acquired by a non-hereditary model

[Model for increasing the ability to support childcare (resource power)]

- Recruit foster parent candidates from those involved in family support
- Develop them into supporters/foster parents naturally according to their aptitude, through step-by-step, hands-on training
- Create a new way of working by using the time, knowledge and ability of mothers



(3) Implementation timetable (public)

Describe the general flow of idea implementation clearly and concisely including entities involved and the process with milestones within the column below (graphics may be included as necessary).

[Steps for idea implementation]

Phase 1 (Before transfer of responsibility)

1 st step		2 nd step		3 rd step
Groundwork (chiiki atatame) project (PR)	➡	Child-raising station project (Consultation/support) ★ Integrated support station (government, private NPOs, etc.)	➡	Community resource agent project (Human development/data bank)
1 Manuals for society-based care by public organizations		1 Development of child-raising coordinators		1 Development of family support training program
2 Training for public organizations		2 Establishment of child-raising stations		2 Development of foster/nurturing parents training program
3 School education for diversity		3 Establishment of supporter-care rooms (mental care for supporters)		3 Development of data accumulation system & application development
4 Community exchange events (e.g., art events)				4 Development of recruitment channels (non-family supporters)

※ Since projects are interconnected and simultaneously implemented, they are not promoted in a perfectly chronological order.

<Sample timeline>

	2017												2018												2019												2020					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. 地域温め事業																																										
①対応マニュアル																																										
②出張授業																																										
③アートイベント																																										
2. 子育て支援事業																																										
①コーディネーター養成																																										
②ステーション開設																																										
3. 人材事業																																										
①ファミサポ研修																																										
②里親・養親研修																																										
③アプリ																																										
④人材リクルート開始																																										

Phase 2 (Childcare system integrated with the whole community, residents, and municipality)

- 1 A series of training and certification systems to connect family supporters and foster parents
- 2 Databank of support resources
- 3 Matching system for child-raising support
- 4 Systematization of child-raising support as paid work, in collaboration with the municipality



日本語	英語
1. 地球温め事業	1. Groundwork (chiiki atatame) project
①対応マニュアル	1) Handling manual
②出張授業	2) Traveling class
③アートイベント	3) Art events
2. 子育てステーション事業	2. Child-raising station project
①コーディネーター養成	1) Training coordinators
②ステーション開設	2) Opening stations
3. 人材事業	3. Human resource project
①ファミサポ研修	1) Family support training
②里親・養親研修	2) Foster/nurturing parents training
③アプリ	3) Applications
④人材リクルート開拓	4) Development of recruitment channels
マニュアル完成	Manual completion
研修開始	First training
開始	Start
児相移管	Responsibility transfer of child guidance center
ステーション	Station
提案	Proposal
パイロット	Pilot
導入	Implementation

(4) Others (public)

Describe the appealing points of your idea and any constraints in implementing it (with possible solutions) as well as the potential for its future development (e.g., elimination of a particular constraint enables additional XXX) within the column below.

[Key points of the idea]

- A. Recruit foster parents from those involved in family support
- B. Utilize knowledge and skills of foster parenting acquired through training programs and personal experiences for community child-raising support
 - Foster parents' knowledge from experiences is not accumulated or shared systematically, ending up as knowledge of one generation only. Therefore, other foster parents face similar problems and cannot deal with difficulties that could have been avoided if knowledge were shared. Such situations could be avoided.
 - Beneficiaries can get advice and support from those who have experienced similar problems and feelings.
- C. Raise children in a community-based team (beneficiaries can customize their own teams)

[Constraints for idea implementation/tentative solutions/potential of development]

Point A

(Constraints) Different administrative jurisdictions (ward-specific family support vs. Tokyo's foster parent system)

(Tentative solutions) With a view to transfer the central responsibility to the ward in 2020, we will complete local groundwork by 2019*¹ and training of foster parent candidates by 2020.

Point B

(Constraints) Some foster parents are hesitant to disclose their status as foster parent/fostering child.

- Concerns over discrimination and bullying/cannot tell the truth out of pity for foster child

(Solutions) 1 Explain the importance of "telling the truth" for the best interest of the child at a pre-training session to help them think and discuss the issue for sufficient understanding → policy suggestion

2 Let them know that one's diverse origins (background) and having diverse family members are normal and natural things → Help them recognize by improving the image of foster parents/children and providing education*²

Point C

(Constraints) 1 Absence of coordinators/supervisors who connect people (supporting resources)(function of community hub)

2 No supporting system is in place because a proper training system is not organized yet and sufficient mental care is not provided to supporters (foster parents and institution staff)

(Tentative solutions) Core members of this project serve as a hub.

- As a tentative measure, one child-raising station will be established in the ward to accumulate information while listening and matching.

(Potential for development) Develop "MY Child-raising Team Creation" app once sufficient information about supporting resources is accumulated*³

- Create a mechanism to help solve problems easily through child-raising stations and smartphone terminals.

Remove "burden of reaching out" and promote wider penetration

*¹ *² *³: Refer to 2-(3) Implementation timetable and Private items