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Seoul expands elderly care facilities in neighborhoods and supporting bus fares for the disabled

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Promotion of disability electric assistive device operation accident insurance Living allowance for low-income veterans doubled



Seoul City Hall. Photo by The Korea Times

The Seoul Metropolitan Government will expand local elderly care facilities and implement customized welfare programs such as subsidizing bus fares for the disabled from July. Despite the rapid aging of the population and the economic downturn, the focus was on strengthening the social safety net so that citizens could enjoy a stable daily life.

According to the Seoul Metropolitan Government on the 19th, first of all, a comprehensive support system covering care and leisure will be established for the elderly. Two new municipal silver care centers will be established in Gangdong-gu and Eunpyeong-gu, expanding to 57 large-scale nursing facilities by 2030, and supporting 'excretory care robots for the elderly' in public elderly care facilities. In addition, it was decided to increase the number of 'Seoul-type safe care homes', which are joint living homes for the elderly, by 10 more so that elderly people in need of care can live in old age close to their existing residences and families. Seven new "senior playgrounds" equipped with facilities and equipment for the elderly will also be built.

The welfare of persons with disabilities is also strengthened. Starting in July, all 390,000 people with disabilities living in Seoul will receive bus fares. Free fares are applied not only to Seoul but also to bus transfers in the metropolitan area, and one accompanying person can board for free for people with severe disabilities. In addition, 25 autonomous regions plan to promote insurance for people with disabilities who use electric security devices and compensate up to 20 million won in the event of a third party's personal liability during the operation of electric assistive devices.

The living allowance paid to low-income veterans will be doubled from the existing 100,000 won to 200,000 won. Basic pensioners were also included in the list of recipients of the Independent Merit Living Support Allowance. The city also plans to roll out a customized support policy in the second half of the year, including mental health services, financial counseling, door-to-door domestic support, and hospital accompaniment services for young people in family care who are in welfare blind spots.

Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI) technology, and robots are also actively used in various welfare services. The Internet of Things (IoT) safety verification service for vulnerable elderly will be expanded to 14,000 households, and 400 additional robots for preventing care dementia will be supported. An AI vision system for alleviating the behavior of people with developmental disabilities will also be built in two new facilities for the disabled.

Kim Sang-han, director of the Seoul Welfare Policy Office, said, "We are realizing the need to evolve welfare services in line with various changes in the welfare environment," adding, "We will become a strong support for citizens by implementing tighter welfare."

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