SEOUL METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE ON SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN RESIDENTS AND MULTI-CULTURAL FAMILIES

Enactment No. 5726, Jul. 17, 2014
Partial Amendment No. 5874, May. 14, 2015
Amendment of Other Laws No. 6386, Jan. 05, 2017
Partial Amendment No. 6870, May. 03, 2018
Amendment of Other Laws No. 7044, Mar. 28, 2019
Partial Amendment No. 7303, Sep. 26, 2019
Amendment of Other Laws No. 7423, Dec. 31, 2019
Partial Amendment No. 8073, Jul. 20, 2021
Partial Amendment No. 8498, Oct. 17, 2022
Amendment of Other Laws No. 8862, Jul. 24, 2023
Partial Amendment No. 9124, Mar. 15, 2024
Partial Amendment No. 9481, Jan. 03, 2025
Partial Amendment No. 9882, Mar. 27, 2025
Partial Amendment No. 9799, Sep. 29, 2025

Article 1 (Purposes)

The purpose of this Ordinance is to assist foreign residents and multi-cultural families residing in Seoul Metropolitan Government to settle as a member of the community, by formulating a plan for administrative support necessary for them to live in a stable family environment and a self-supporting life.

Article 2 (Definitions of Terms)

The definitions of terms used in this Ordinance are defined as follows:

1. The term "foreign residents" means foreigners, persons who have acquired the nationality of the Republic of Korea, and their children, who reside within the jurisdiction of Seoul Metropolitan Government (hereinafter referred to as the "Seoul Government") for more than 90 days;
2. The term "multi-cultural family" means a family residing within the jurisdiction of the Seoul Government and falling under any of the following:

(a) A family comprised of a marriage-based immigrant under subparagraph 3 of Article 2 of the Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea and/or persons who have acquired the nationality of the Republic of Korea pursuant to Articles 2 through 4 of the Nationality Act;

(b) A family comprised of a person who has acquired the nationality of the Republic of Korea pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of the Nationality Act and a person who has acquired the nationality of the Republic of Korea pursuant to Articles 2 through 4 of the aforesaid Act.

3. The term "foreign resident and multi-cultural family support organization" means a nonprofit corporation or organization established to provide support to foreign residents and multi-cultural families as its principal business.

Article 3 (Status of Foreign Residents and Multi-cultural Families)

Unless otherwise prescribed by other statutes, regulations or other municipal ordinances foreign residents and multi-cultural families residing in the Seoul Government may use property and public facilities of the Seoul Government on the same basis as residents, and receive various administrative benefits from the Seoul Government.

Article 4 (Responsibilities of Mayor)

(1) The Mayor of Seoul Metropolitan Government (hereinafter referred to as the "Mayor") shall implement appropriate policies for foreign residents and multi-cultural families to live in a stable family environment and settle readily in the community.

(2) The Mayor shall establish an office exclusively responsible for policies to support foreign residents and multi-cultural families, and devise a plan to arrange human resources and financial means, following the establishment thereof. <Amended by Ordinance No. 5874, May 14, 2015>

Article 5 (Basic Plans for Policies on Foreign Residents and Multi-Cultural Families)

(1) The Mayor shall formulate a basic plan for policies on foreign residents and multi-cultural families (hereinafter referred to as "basic plan") every five years.

(2) A basic plan shall include the following matters:

1. Basic objectives and direction-setting for promotion of policies on foreign residents and multi-cultural families;
2. Tasks for promotion, methods of promotion, and timing of promotion, of policies on foreign residents and multi-cultural families;
3. Matters concerning the raising and operation of funds;
4. Other matters deemed necessary the efficient promotion of policies on foreign residents and multi-cultural families.

(3) A basic plan under paragraph (1) shall be decided through deliberation by the "Council on Support for Foreign Residents and Multi-cultural Families" under Article 8.

Article 6 (Yearly Action Plans)

(1) The Mayor shall formulate, implement, and evaluate an "action plan for foreign residents and multi-cultural families" (hereinafter referred to as "action plan") every year.

(2) An action plan shall include the following: <Amended by Ordinance No. 5874, May 14, 2015>

1. Matters concerning the objectives and vision for support for foreign residents and multi-cultural families;
2. Matters concerning implementation policies to support foreign residents and multi-cultural families;
3. Matters concerning a plan for securing funds for programs to support foreign residents and multi-cultural families;
4. Matters concerning education and public relations for the creation of a sound culture of international marriage and the enhancement of the understanding of multi-culture;
5. Matters concerning the establishment of a system for the linkage of services access to services and cooperation between agencies for the efficient promotion of support programs for foreign residents and multi-cultural families;
6. Matters concerning the establishment of a system for cooperation with private organizations, etc.;
7. Other matters deemed necessary to support foreign residents and multi-cultural families.

(3) The Mayor shall formulate an action plan based on a basic plan formulated under Article 5, and consider the content of the basic plan and the action plan formulated pursuant to the Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea and the Multi-cultural Families Support Act.

(4) An action plan under paragraph (1) shall be decided through deliberation by the "Council on Support for Foreign Residents and Multi-cultural Families" under Article 8.

(5) In order to formulate an action plan under paragraph (1), the Mayor shall reflect the results of surveys of the current status under Article 17 (3). <Newly Inserted by Ordinance No. 6870, May 3, 2018>

Article 7 (Scope and Matters of Support)

1. Education, public relations, etc. for the prevention of unreasonable discrimination against foreign residents and the advocacy of human rights;
2. Provision of education and information, counselling, etc. about a basic grounding and knowledge necessary for foreign residents to live in Korea.
3. Systems, policies, etc. necessary to improve the legal status and treatment of foreign professionals;
4. Holding of various cultural and sporting events;
5. Administrative services necessary for business of foreigners and foreign-invested enterprises;
6. Child care and educational programs for children of foreign residents;
7. Programs for maintaining an equal relationship between family members, such as family counselling, relationship education for married couples, parental education, family life education, etc. for foreign residents;
8. Prevention of domestic violence within foreign residents, and protection of and support for marriage-based immigrants, etc. who have suffered domestic violence;
9. Provision of living conveniences and emergency aid;
10. Protection of the rights and interests, and human rights of foreign workers;
11. Other matters the Mayor deems necessary.

(2) The scope of support to multi-cultural families shall be as follows: <Amended by on May 14, 2015; Oct. 17, 2022>

1. Education and public relations for the enhancement of the understanding of multi-cultural families;

2. Provision of basic information necessary for marriage-based immigrants, etc. to live their lives and life adjustment education;

3. Provision of Korean education, vocational education and training, and arrangement of jobs for marriage-based immigrants, etc.;

4. Programs for maintaining an equal relationship between family members, such as family counselling, relationship education for married couples, parental education, family life education, etc. for multi-cultural families;

5. Prevention of domestic violence within multi-cultural families, and protection and support for marriage-based immigrants, etc. who have suffered domestic violence;

6. Education on health and nutrition, dispatch of pre- and post-natal helpers, provision of medical services, such as general medical examination, so that marriage-based immigrants, etc. may live healthily;

7. Provision of foreign language interpretation and translation services to marriage-based immigrants, etc.;

8. Child care and education support for children who are members of multi-cultural families, and support necessary to improve their language competency, such as Korean education;

9. Provision of evacuation procedures in disaster situation;

10. Provision of legal services for unjust measures taken against multi-cultural families;

11. Protection and provision of support to children of multi-cultural families who are victims of physical, spychological, sexual assault or abuse.

12. Other matters the Mayor deems necessary.

(3) The Mayor may conduct education and publicity programs for citizens for raising awareness and respect for cultural diversity of immigrants and multi-cultural families. <This Paragraph Newly Inserted on Oct. 17, 2022>

(4) The Mayor shall compile a budget necessary to conduct programs related to the subparagraphs of paragraphs (1) and (2) and expenses for conducting programs related to paragraph (3) <Amended on Oct. 17, 2022>

[Title Amended on Oct. 17, 2022>

Article 8 (Establishment and Operation of Council)

(1) The Mayor shall establish the "Council on Support for Foreign Residents and Multi-cultural Families of Seoul Metropolitan Government" (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") under his or her jurisdiction to efficiently promote policies to support foreign residents and multi-cultural families.

(2) The Council shall be comprised of not more than 15 members, including one chairperson and one vice chairperson. <Amended by Ordinance No. 5874, May 14, 2015>

(3) The Vice-Mayor I for Administrative Affairs and the heads of Offices and Bureaus in charge of the support for foreign residents shall be ex officio members of the Council, and the remainder shall be commissioned by the Mayor from among the following persons:

1. Members of the Seoul Metropolitan Council;

2. Relevant persons of relevant agencies, such as the Office of Education, a police station, an employment security center, and an immigration office;

3. Experts of organizations, institutions and learned circles related to support for foreign residents and multi-cultural families;

4. Representatives of foreign residents and multi-cultural families residing for at least one year.

(4) The Vice-Mayor I for Administrative Affairs shall become the chairperson of the Council, and the vice chairperson shall be elected by the Council and from among its the members.

(5) The term of office of commissioned members shall be two years; they may only serve two consecutive terms or less. <Amended by Ordinance No. 5874, May 14, 2015>.

(6) The Council shall have one executive secretary to conduct its affairs, and the head of a section or an officer in charge of the Council shall become the executive secretary. <Amended by Ordinance No. 5874, May 14, 2015>

Article 9 (Function of the Council)

The Council shall deliberate on the following matters in relation to support for foreign residents and multi-cultural families:

1. Formulation and evaluation of basic plans;

2. Formulation and evaluation of action plans;

3. Mutual cooperation on common local issues of support programs;

4. Realization of a community;

5. Other matters the Mayor or the chairperson deems necessary.

Article 10 (Grounds for Disqualification of Members)

No person who falls under any of the following shall become a member of the Council: <Amended by Ordinance No. 5874, May 14, 2015>

1. An adult under adult guardianship, or a person under limited guardianship;
2. A person in whose case two years have not passed since his or her imprisonment without labor or greater punishment as declared by a court was completely executed (including where the execution is deemed completed), or an exemption from the execution of the sentence was made definite;
3. A person who is under a suspended sentence of imprisonment without labor or greater punishment as declared by a court;
4. A person in whose case two years have not passed since he or she was punished with by a fine imposed by a court.

Article 11 (Disqualification and Refrainment of Members)

(1) Where a member of the Council falls under any of the following, he or she shall be disqualified from deliberation and giving advice on the relevant matter:

1. Where the member has provided or is providing services and/or advice, and has conducted or is conducting research, etc. in relation to the relevant matter subject to deliberation and advice;
2. Where the member is deemed to have a direct or indirect interest in relation to the relevant matter subject to deliberation and/or advice.

(2) Where a member falls under any of the subparagraphs of paragraph (1), he or she shall file an application for refrainment from deliberation or advice on the relevant matter.

(3) Where grounds for disqualification falling under any subparagraph of paragraph (1) occur, the chairperson shall determine by virtue of his or her office or in accordance with an application for abstention filed by a member whether to exclude the relevant member from deliberation or giving advice.

Article 12 (Cancellation of Appointment of Members)

(1) Any of the following grounds occurs, the Mayor may cancel the appointment of a member even during his or her term of office:

1. Where the member resigns during his or her term of office;
2. Where it is impractical for the member to perform his or her duties due to his or her death, emigration, disease requiring long-term treatment, etc.;
3. Where the member is deemed unfit to perform his or her duties, such as due to loss of dignity;
4. Where irregularities, such as the exercise of undue influence or requesting a favor in relation to duties of the member, are confirmed;
5. Where the member fails to participate in activities of the Council for a long period.

(2) Where a member of the Council falls under any of the subparagraphs of Article 10, the Mayor shall cancel the commission of such member.

Article 13 (Chairperson)

The chairperson shall represent the Council and preside over its affairs, and where the chairperson is unable to perform any of his or her duties, the vice chairperson shall perform such duties on his or her behalf.

Article 14 (Meetings)

(1) Meetings of the Council shall be divided into regular meetings held twice a year and extraordinary meetings convened when the chairperson deems them necessary. <Amended by Ordinance No. 5874, May 14, 2015>

(2) A meeting of the Council shall be held with a majority of its incumbent members present, and pass resolutions with the a concurrent vote of a majority of those members present.

(3) The Council shall faithfully keep the minuets, etc. of all meetings and make it a rule to hold meetings open to the public.

Article 15 (Hearing of Opinions)
Where necessary, the Council may require relevant public officials or experts to attend meetings to hear their opinions, or request them to submit necessary data.

Article 16 (Allowances of Members)
Allowance for members who have attended meetings of the Council shall be governed by the Seoul Metropolitan Government Ordinance on Payment of Allowances and Travel Expenses of Committees.

Article 17 (Promotion of Policy Programs)
(1) The Mayor may formulate and promote a yearly plan for environmental improvement projects in districts in which foreign residents and multi-cultural families are concentrated and reside.
(2) The Mayor may build links between private and public services and cooperation systems to efficiently promote support programs for foreign residents and multi-cultural families.
(3) The Mayor may conduct necessary surveys of the current status, such as statistics of foreign residents and multi-cultural families residing in the Seoul Government, and a fact-finding surveys of districts in which they are concentrated and reside;
(4) The Mayor may compile a budget necessary to provide policy programs under paragraphs (1) through (3).
(5) When the Mayor promotes policy programs under paragraphs (1) through (3), he or she may request relevant public institutions having jurisdiction over the relevant districts to provide necessary cooperation. In such cases, relevant public institutions requested to provide cooperation shall cooperation in such policy programs, unless there is a special reason not to do so.

Article 18 (Establishment, Operation, etc. of Foreign Residents Support Facilities)
(1) The Mayor may establish and operate foreign residents support facilities (hereinafter referred to as the "support facilities") to promote programs related to each and every subparagraph of Article 7(1). <Amended on Jul. 20, 2021>
(2) The Mayor may request relevant administrative agencies, corporations, or organizations to dispatch public officials belonging to the administrative agencies, or employees of the corporations or organizations for the operation of support facilities.
(3) Where it is recognized as necessary, the Mayor may consign agencies, corporations or organizations with all or part of support facilities under paragraph (1) above or businesses thereof as stipulated by the Seoul Metropolitan Government Ordinance on the Private Consignment of Administrative Affairs. <Newly Inserted on Jul. 20, 2021>
[Title Amended on Jul. 20, 2021]

Article 19 (Establishment, Operation, etc. of Multi-Cultural Families Support Centers)
(1) The Mayor may establish and operate multi-cultural families support centers (hereinafter referred to as the "support centers") to promote programs related to each and every subparagraph of Article 7(2). <Amended on Jul. 20, 2021>
(2) Matters concerning the establishment, operation, etc. of the support centers under paragraph (1) above shall be governed by Article 12 of the Multicultural Families Support Act, the Enforcement Decree of the same Act, and the Enforcement Rule of the same Act. <Amended on Jul. 20, 2021>
(3) Where it is deemed necessary, the Mayor may consign private entities that fall under any of the subparagraphs of Article 12-2(1) of the Enforcement Decree of the Multicultural Families Support Act. <Amended on Jul. 20, 2021>
(4) A term of consignment under paragraph (3) above shall be 5 years, and where the Mayor deems necessary, consignment may be extended only once. <Amended on Jul. 20, 2021>
(5) The Seoul Metropolitan Government Ordinance on the Establishment and Operation of Social Welfare Facilities shall apply mutatis mutandis to other matters concerning private consignment. <Amended on Jul. 20, 2021>

Article 20 (Support for Operation of Facilities and Centers)

(1) Where support facilities or support centers are consigned under Article 18(3) or Article 19(3), the Mayor may subsidize, within a budgetary limit, operating expenses to a party so consigned. <Amended on May 14, 2015; Jan. 5, 2017; Jul. 20, 2021>

(2) The Mayor shall supervise and inspect support facilities or support centers and their operation thereof at least once a year. And the Mayor may, if required, demand to report or submit documents or inspect them. A party consigned with the support facilities or support centers shall cooperate on the supervision and inspection. <Newly Inserted on Jul. 20, 2021>

[Title Amended on Jul. 20, 2021]

Article 21 (Support to Foreign Resident and Multi-cultural Family Support Organizations)

The Mayor may provide administrative and financial support necessary for activities of foreign resident and multi-cultural family support organizations.

Article 22 (Cosmopolitan Day)

(1) To promote tolerance for foreign residents and multi-cultural families and enlighten the meaning of cultural diversity, the Mayor shall designate May 20 each year under Article 19 of the Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea as "Cosmopolitan Day", and establish the week following Cosmopolitan Day as Cosmopolitan Week.

(2) The Mayor may conduct the following events to commemorate the Cosmopolitan Day and the Cosmopolitan Week under paragraph (1):

1. Commemorative ceremonies, and cultural, art, and sporting events;
2. Presentation of research findings and international exchange events;
3. Encouragement of persons or organizations (including foreign residents and multi-cultural families) that rendered distinguished service;
4. Other events to raise regional awareness of foreign residents and multi-cultural families.

Article 23 (Official Commendation)

(1) The Mayor may officially commend individuals, corporations, or organizations recognized as having rendered distinguished service to the State and a community through activities supporting foreign residents and multi-cultural families. <Amended by Ordinance No. 5874, May 14, 2015>

(2) The Seoul Metropolitan Government Ordinance on Official Commendation shall apply to procedures, etc. necessary for official commendation. <Amended by Ordinance No. 6386, Jan. 5, 2017>

Article 24 (Participation of Foreign Residents in Policy Formulation)

(1) The Mayor shall endeavor so that foreign residents and multi-cultural families may participate in policy formulation.

(2) The Mayor shall create conditions that enable foreign residents and multi-cultural families to proactively participate in volunteer activities in the community.

Article 25 (Enforcement Rules) Matters necessary for enforcing this Ordinance shall be prescribed by rule of the Seoul Government.

[Moved from Article 26; Previous Article 25 Deleted <Jul. 20, 2021>]

Article 25 (Enforcement Rules)

Matters required to enforce this Ordinance shall be prescribed as rules.

[Moved from Article 26; previous Article 25 deleted <Jul. 20, 2021>]

Article 26 (Enforcement Rules)

Matters necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be prescribed by rule of the Seoul Government.