

Timeline of National Events in the History of Developmental Disabilities

1965: Title XIX (19) of the *Social Security Act* created a cooperative federal/state entitlement program, known as Medicaid, which pays medical costs for certain individuals with disabilities and families with low incomes.

1973: Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* makes it illegal for any federal or public institutions receiving any federal funds to discriminate on the basis of disability.

1975: The *Education for Handicapped Children Act of 1975* is signed into law and guarantees a free, appropriate, public education for all children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment (renamed Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1990).

1990: The *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* is signed into law by President George H. W. Bush alongside its "founding father," Justin Dart.

1999: In *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities constitutes discrimination and violates the ADA, that individuals have a right to receive benefits in the "most integrated setting appropriate to their needs," and that failure to find community-based placements for qualifying people with disabilities is illegal discrimination.

2008: The *ADA Amendments Act* broadens the scope of how disability is defined.

1963

1963: The *Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963* set aside money for established University Affiliated Facilities, which are now known as University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs).

1970

1970: The *Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Amendments* contained the first legal definition of developmental disabilities, and authorized grants for services and facilities for the rehabilitation of people with developmental disabilities and state Developmental Disabilities Councils.

1990

1974: *Halderman v. Pennhurst* highlighted conditions at state schools for people with intellectual disabilities, and became a precedent in the battle for deinstitutionalization, establishing a right to community services for people with developmental disabilities.

1975: The *Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act* became law in the U.S., and provided federal funds to programs serving people with developmental disabilities and outlined a series of rights for those who are institutionalized, establishing a protection and advocacy system (amended several times over the next several decades).

2000

1999: The *Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvements Act of 1999 (TWWIIA)* expands the availability of Medicare and Medicaid so that beneficiaries with disabilities who return to work will not lose their medical benefits.

2000: The *Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act* amended legislation to include in the Bill of Rights that provision of care should be free of abuse and increased the accountability of programs funded under the Act.

Timeline of State Events in the History of Developmental Disabilities

