

# IMPORTANT DATES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

1927 – Warm Springs Foundation facility for polio survivors becomes model rehab and peer counseling program

1935 – Social Security Act established income supports for blind people and disabled children; extends vocational rehabilitation programs

1935 – League of the Physically Handicapped formed to protest discrimination against disabled people in federal relief programs

1935 – In November, the New York League of the Physically Handicapped picketed for 3 weeks at the headquarters of the federal government's Works Progress Administration, protesting employment discrimination

1940 — American Federation of the Physically Handicapped

1946 – National Mental Health Foundation founded by conscientious objectors who worked in state mental institutions, begins movement towards de-institutionalization

1948 – Precursor to Paralympic Games held in London, primarily for disabled Second World War veterans

1948 – Disabled students program begun at University of Illinois, providing accessible classrooms and transportation

1958 – Gini Laurie, considered by many Americans as the "grandmother of IL," starts the Toomie J. Gazette (renamed Rehabilitation Gazette in 1978) as a forum for international information exchange by people with substantial disabilities, especially people who used respirators or had polio.

1962 – Disabled Residents' Program at University of California at Berkeley

1968 – Architectural Barriers Act passed, mandated physical access to federally constructed facilities

1969 – Rehabilitation International World Congress introduces "Symbol of Access", community-based rehabilitation "One in Ten" statistics

1970–72 – Peer Counseling starts through disability-specific social clubs

1970 – Advocacy groups, Paraquad in St. Louis and Disabled in Action in New York founded

1972 – Cooperative Living established in Houston

1972 – Berkeley Center for Independent Living, Independent living project at Boston University

1972/3 – Boston Self-Help Center founded

1973 – Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits federally funded programs from discriminating against people with disabilities

1974 – People First, self-organization of people with developmental disabilities

1975 – To promote cross-disability advocacy on a national level, the American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD) was established

1975 – First national conference on independent living, held in Berkeley

1975 – Education for All Handicapped Children Act passed, establishing right of children with disabilities to education

1975 – International: UN adopts Declaration of Rights of disabled Persons

1976 – Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) program established in Houston

1977 – Disability activists occupy Federal buildings in 10 cities, to compel implementation of the first Federal anti-discrimination legislation

1977 – Film Coming Home. Hollywood film positively portrays people with disabilities living independently

1977 – White House Conference on Handicapped People includes representatives from all states producing the first White House Action Plan with the full participation of people with disabilities

1977 – Definition of “independent living” is developed by leading disability rights advocates

1978 – Federal government agrees to fund Independent Living Centers

1978 – ADAPT begins demonstrations and advocacy for accessible public transportation

1979 – UN Advisory Committee for IYDP adopts theme of “Full Participation and Equality” and urges self-organization of disabled people

1980–81 – First Canadian ILCs founded in Winnipeg and Ontario

1981 – Summit Independent Living Center and Montana Independent Living Project are first Centers for Independent Living in Montana

1981 – United Nations International Year of Disabled Persons; people with disabilities included in UN human rights resolutions

1981 – Mobility International USA (MIUSA) formed to develop exchanges between people with disabilities

1982 – UN General Assembly proclaims 1983–92 as UN Decade of Disabled Persons

1982 – National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) established

1984 – First national conference on rural independent living

1986 – Toward Independence published by National Council of the Handicapped (now National Council on Disability), recommending creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act

1988 – “Deaf President Now” protest march draws thousands of supporters to the streets of Washington, DC resulting in the first deaf President of Gallaudet University

1990 – Americans with Disabilities Act passed

1999 – Supreme Court upholds “Most Integrated Setting” requirement

1999 – The first international summit conference on independent living held in Washington D.C., in September.

2001 – In June compliance with Section 508 of Rehab Act became mandatory throughout federal government, requiring accessibility of information provided, ranging from kiosks in parks to websites