Disability Policy Milestones

1968

Architectural Barriers Act
Requires all buildings constructed, altered, leased, or designed with federal funds must be made accessible.

1973

The Rehabilitation Act
Extendes state vocational rehabilitation services & prohibites discrimination on the basis of disability by federally funded programs.

1975

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
Requires all public schools provide a "free appropriate public education" to all students. (The act was renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1990)

1977

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
Extends cilvil rights to people with disabilities and covers any program or activitiy receiving federal assistance.

1983

Job Accommodation Network
A technial assistance center is established to provide free, expert, and confidential help on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues.

1990

Americans with Disabilities Act
The most comprehensive disability rights legislation in history. It covers 5 different areas:
Employment (Title I),
Public Services (Title II),
Public Accommodations (Title III),
Telecommunications (Title IV),
Miscellaneous (Title V)

1996

Mental Health Parity Act
Requires annual or lifetime dollar limits on mental health benefits to be no lower than any such dollar limits for medical and surgical benefits offered by a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering coverage in connection with a group health plan.

1998

Work Opportunity Tax Credit
Federal tax credit given to companies that hire from populations facing high rates of unemployment.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act
Requires eletronic and information technology is accessible.

2001

Workforce Investment Act
Intergrates various training, federal education, and employment services for job seekers & employers.

Office of Disability Employment Policy
Creation of a sub-cabinet-level agency within the U.S. Department of Labor.

2004

Assistive Technology Act
This act amends previous iterations to reflect jumps in technology. It requires states to provide direct aid to people with disabilities to ensure they have access to the technology they need at home & work.

2008

ADA Amendments Act
Changes the definition of "disability" under the ADA in favor of a more broad and inclusive interpretation.

2010

Executive Order 13548
This directive calls on federal departments and agencies to increase recruitment, hiring, and retention of people with disabilities.

2014

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act
Amends crucial programs to help job seekers access the services they need to succeed in employment and to match employers with workers.

Disarming Disability