

# 1970-1980s

## New Beginnings

### 1973: Rehabilitation Act

#### SECTION 504

Civil rights extended to people with disabilities and provided opportunities in education, employment and various settings, which allowed programs to receive federal funding, including deaf programs.



### 1975: Feasibility Study for Community Center

A 47-page report shared the feasibility of providing a community center for those who are deaf in Utah. Governor Calvin L. Rampton also wrote a letter supporting the center.

### 1977-1981: Overcoming Funding Barriers

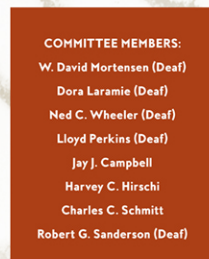
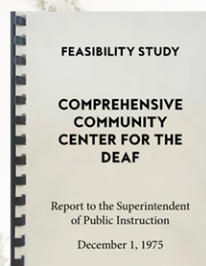
**1977:** A bill made it through legislative committees, but accidentally stated “blind” instead of “deaf” and was unable to be fixed in time.

**1980:** The Utah State Board of Education reserved \$2.5 million for the new center, but didn’t make it high enough on the priority list.

**1981:** The legislature prioritized the need of a dairy barn at Utah State University over the proposed community center due to lack of Deaf community support.

### 1982: Funding Success

During the 1982 legislative session, a bill under the State Building Board that included a center for the deaf was passed for \$200,000, which was used to buy the Bountiful building.



**Governor Rampton**

### 1983: New Community Center Opens

The Utah Community Center for the Deaf officially opened at 388 North 400 South in Bountiful. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on June 9, 1983 with deaf community members. Dr. Sanderson was named the first director.



### 1988: Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

A bill was passed to set up a Division of Services for the Hearing Impaired. Deaf advocates, led by W. Dave Mortensen, changed the name to Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



**W. Dave Mortensen**  
 President, Utah Association of the Deaf for 22 years

Mortensen’s first term in 1971–1985 was essential in creating the community center. He shared the message “to serve all deaf people, not just rehabilitation consumers.”



Utah Relay was created by a legislative bill in 1988 and signed by Governor Norman H. Bangerter.

#### HARD OF HEARING



**1986:** Max Kennedy started the first chapter of Self Help for Hard of Hearing (SHHH), now called Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA). Meetings were held at the Bountiful building.

