Distinctive Dates in Social Welfare History

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B.C.

1792-1750  King Hammurabi of Babylon issues the Code of Hammurabi, which creates the first code of laws: 3,600 lines of cuneiform, written on a diorite column, include protection of widows, orphans, and the weak against the strong.

600-500  Buddhism, founded by Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha), teaches that all other forms of righteousness "are not worth the sixteenth part of the emancipation of the heart through love and charity."

500-400  The Talmud, a vast compilation of Oral Laws of Jews, prescribes exactly how charitable funds are collected and distributed, including the appointment of tax collectors to administer the system.

386-322  Aristotle recognizes man as a social animal who necessarily must cooperate with and assist his fellow man.

A.D.

30  Christianity, a martyr's church during its first 250 years, in its religious writings cites Jesus Christ as teaching people's love for one another as God's will. The writings emphasize sympathy for poor, disabled, and dispossessed people. Recognized in law in the 4th century the Canon Law was codified in the 12th century to provide an elaborate discussion of the theory and practice of charity.

622  The Koran, the book considered to be the revelation of God to Muhammad and the foundation of the religion Islam, sets forth five duties, the third of which is to give. prescribed alms generously and also to give some alms beyond the minimum.

1215  King John of England signs the Magna Carta, forerunner of modern civil rights documents.

1349  The Statute of Labourers, the first national level English law to control the movement of laborers, fixes a maximum wage and treats poor people as criminals, thus influencing colonial poor laws.

1536  The Act for the Punishment of Sturdy Vagabonds and Beggars, enacted in England, increases penalties for begging and makes the parish the local government unit for poor relief, requiring local officials to provide resources by making voluntary contributions in churches.

17TH CENTURY

1601  The Elizabethan Poor Law is enacted by the English Parliament, establishing three categories of people eligible for relief: (1) able-bodied poor people; (2) "impotent poor" people (that is, "unemployables"-aged, blind, and disabled people); and (3) dependent children. This law, on which colonial poor laws were based, became a fundamental concept in U.S. public welfare.

1624  Virginia Colony passes the first legislation recognizing services and needs of disabled soldiers and sailors based on "special work" contributions to society.

1642  Plymouth Colony enacts a poor law that directs that relief cases be discussed at town meetings.
1647  The first colonial Poor Law enacted by Rhode Island emphasizes public responsibility for relief of the poor, to maintain the impotent, and to employ the able, and shall appoint an overseer for the same purpose. Sec. 43 Eliz. 2."

1657  Scots’ Charitable Society, the first American "friendly society," founded in Boston, represents the starts of voluntary societies to meet special welfare needs.

The first almshouse is established in Rensselaerswyck, New York, followed by one in Plymouth in 1658 and another in Boston in 1660.

1662  The Settlement Act (Law of Settlement and Removal) is passed by the English Parliament to prevent movement of indigent groups from parish to parish in search of relief. The law makes residence a requirement for assistance, thus influencing American colonies.

1692  The Province of Massachusetts Bay Acts establish indenture contracting or "binding out" for poor children so they will live "under some orderly family government."

1697  The Workhouse Test Act is passed by the English Parliament as a means of forcing unemployed people to work for relief; the act is copied by the colonies.

18TH CENTURY


1729  The Ursuline Sisters of New Orleans establish a private home to care for mothers and children who are survivors of Indian massacres and a smallpox epidemic.

1773  The first public mental hospital, Williamsburg Asylum, is established in Williamsburg, Virginia. It is later renamed Eastern Hospital.

1776  The Declaration of Independence is adopted on July 4 by action of the Second Continental Congress.

1777  John Howard completes his study of English prison life and inhumane treatment of prisoners; his study influences reform efforts in the United States.

1787  The U.S. Constitution is completed in Convention on September 17

1790  The first state public orphanage is founded in Charleston, South Carolina.

1791  The Bill of Rights is ratified on December 15 by Virginia; 10 of the 12 proposed amendments became part of the U.S. Constitution.

1797  Massachusetts enacts the first law regarding insane people as a special group of dependents.

1798  The U.S. Public Health Service is established following severe epidemics in Eastern seaboard cities, which were caused by diseases brought into the country as a result of increased shipping and immigration.

19TH CENTURY

1812  The first American textbook on psychiatry, Medical Inquiries and Observations upon the Diseases of the Mind, by Dr. Benjamin Rush, is published.
1813  Connecticut enacts the first labor legislation to require mill owners to have children in factories taught reading, writing, and arithmetic.

1817  The first free US school for the deaf—the Gallaudet School—is founded in Hartford, Connecticut.

1818  New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia Societies for the Prevention of Pauperism are established to help victims of the depression following the War of 1812.

1819  The U.S. House of Representatives passes a bill that grants the Connecticut Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb six sections of public land.

1822  The first state institution for deaf people is established in Kentucky.

1824  The House of Refuge, the first state-funded institution for juvenile delinquents, is founded in New York. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is organized in the War Department. It is later (1849) moved to the Department of the Interior.

1829  The New England Asylum for the Blind (later the Perkins Institution), the first such private institution, is founded.

1834  The Poor Law Reform Act, the first major poor law legislation in England since the Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601, influences American social welfare with its emphasis on complete assumption by able-bodied people of responsibility for their own economic security.

1836  The first restrictive child labor law is enacted in Massachusetts (at the time, two-fifths of all employees in New England factories were aged 7 to 16 years).

1837  The first state institution for blind people is established in Ohio.

1841  Dorothea Dix investigates the care provided to insane people. She ultimately is responsible for establishing 41 state hospitals and the federal St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, DC.

1843  Robert Hartley and associates organize the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, which later merges with the Charity Organization Society of New York to form the present Community Service Society.

1844  Drapery clerk George Williams organizes the first Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in London.

1846  John Augustus, a shoemaker in Boston, gives up his work as a shoemaker to devote time to taking people on probation from the courts; from 1841 to 1858, Augustus took 1,152 men and 794 women on probation.


1850  The first school for "idiotic and feebleminded" youths is incorporated in Massachusetts.

1851  The YMCA is founded in North America (Montreal). Traveler's Aid (now Traveler's Aid International) is founded by Bryan Mullanphy in St. Louis, Missouri.
1853  The Children’s Aid Society of New York—the first child placement agency separate from an institutional program—is founded by the Reverend Charles Loring Brace.

1854  A bill that authorized grants of public land to establish hospitals for insane people and that was initiated by Dorothea Dix and passed unanimously by Congress is vetoed by President Franklin Pierce. The rationale for the veto is that the general welfare clause in the U.S. Constitution reserves such care to the states, not to the federal government, an interpretation that establishes federal welfare policy until the Social Security Act of 1935.  
   The first day nursery in the United States opens in New York City

1855  The first Young Men's Hebrew Association is organized in Baltimore. The YMCA is organized in Boston by retired sea captain Thomas C. Sullivan.

1859  The Origin of Species, published by Charles Darwin, sets forth the theory of evolution, which provides a scientific approach to the understanding of plant and animal development.

1861  The U.S. Sanitary Commission, a forerunner of the American Red Cross, is established by the Secretary of War to encourage women's volunteer service during the Civil War

1862  Freedmen's Aid Societies are established in the North to send teachers and relief supplies to former slaves in the South.  
   The Port Royal Experiment, a precursor to the Freedmen's Bureau, is begun. It is a presidentially authorized but voluntarily funded relief and rehabilitation program to relieve the destitution of 10,000 slaves who have been abandoned on island plantations.

1863  The New York Catholic Protectory is established. It eventually becomes the largest single institution for children in the country
   The first State Board of Charities is established in Massachusetts to supervise the administration of state charitable, medical, and penal institutions.

1865  The Freedmen's Bureau (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands) is founded as a joint effort of the federal government with private and philanthropic organizations. The bureau provides food, clothing, and shelter for freedmen and refugees; administers justice to protect the rights of black men; protects freedmen and refugees from physical violence and fraud; and provides education.  
   Slavery is abolished by the 13th amendment, which is ratified on December 6.

1866  The first municipal Board of Health is created by the New York Metropolitan Health Law.  
   The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), which originated in England in 1855, is founded in Boston by Grace Dodge. The YWCA establishes the first boarding house for female students, teachers, and factory workers in 1860 and the first child care facility in 1864. It initiates a history of "firsts" for helping women.

1867  The state of Ohio authorizes county homes for children.

1868  The Massachusetts Board of State Charities begins payments for orphans to board in private family homes.  
   The 14th amendment is ratified on July 9; it provides that all people born or naturalized in the United States are U.S. citizens and have rights no state can abridge or deny.

1869  The first permanent state board of health and vital statistics is founded in Massachusetts.

1870  The Massachusetts Board of State Charities appoints the first "agent" to visit children in foster homes.  
   The National Prison Association is founded in Cincinnati; it is renamed American Prison Association in 1954 and is now called the American Correctional Association.
The Home for Aged and Infirm Hebrews of New York City opens; it is the first Jewish institutional home in the United States.

Ratification on February 3 of the 15th amendment to the U.S. Constitution establishes the right of citizens (except women) to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous servitude.

1871 The Descent of Man, published by Charles Darwin, applies the theory of evolution to the human species, thus breaking the authority of theologians in the life sciences and providing a basis for a scientific approach to humans and their social relationships.

1872 The American Public Health Association is founded (the Social Work Section is later formed in 1976).

The Dangerous Classes of New York and Twenty Years’ Work among Them, by Charles Loring Brace, exposes the conditions of immigrants and children and helps initiate the adoption movement in the United States.

1874 Representatives of the State Boards of Charities of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and Wisconsin organize the Conference of Boards of Public Charities within the American Social Science Association on May 20. An annual conference, in 1879 it became the National Conference of Charities and Correction in a takeover by the voluntary agencies. It was a precursor to the National Conference of Social Work, renamed in 1917 The organization became the National Council on Social Welfare in July 1956.

1875 New York State grants per capita subsidies to the New York Catholic Protectory for the care of children who would otherwise be public charges.

The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is incorporated.

1876 The New York State Reformatory at Elmira is founded; it is a model penal institution for children. Zebulon K. Brockway, a noted corrections reformer and founder of the National Prison Association, is appointed as the first warden.

The American Association for the Study of the Feeble-Minded is organized. (The name is changed to the American Association on Mental Deficiency in 1933 and to the American Association on Mental Retardation in 1987)

1877 The first Charity Organization Society is founded in December in Buffalo by the Reverend S. Humphreys Gurteen. The society operates on four principles: (1) detailed investigation of applicants, (2) a central system of registration to avoid duplication, (3) cooperation between the various relief agencies, and (4) extensive use of the volunteers in the role of “friendly visitors.”

1879 Franklin B. Sanborn, chair of the Massachusetts State Board of Charities, advocates use of foster homes for delinquent and dependent children.

The Conference of Boards of Public Charities is renamed the National Conference of Charities and Correction in the first session, independent of the American Social Science Association (1865).

1880 The Salvation Army is founded in the United States after William Booth established it in London in 1878.

1881 Clara Barton organizes the American Association of the Red Cross, which is renamed the American National Red Cross in 1893 and the American Red Cross in 1978.

Booker T Washington founds the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, a leading black educational institution that emphasizes industrial training as a means to self-respect and economic independence for African Americans.

1883 The Federal Civil Service Commission is established.
1884  Germany under Bismarck, inaugurates accident, sickness, and old age insurance for workers, influencing future U.S. worker demands for social welfare measures.

    Toynbee Hall, the first social settlement, is opened in East London by Samuel A. Barnett, vicar of St. Jude's Parish. Visited by many Americans, it became a model for American settlement houses.

1885  The first course on social reform is initiated by Dr. Francis G. Peabody at Harvard University. It is Philosophy 11, described as "The Ethics of Social Reform: The Questions of Charity, Divorce, the Indians, Labor, Prisons, Temperance, Etc., as Problems of Practical Ethics-Lectures, Essays and Practical Observations."

1886  The first settlement house in the United States, the Neighborhood Guild (now the University Settlement), is founded on New York City's Lower East Side.

1887  The only 19th century National Conference of Charities and Correction "dealing with Indians and Negroes" is organized in 1887 and 1892 by Phillip C. Garrett, who states that the society had a special responsibility toward "the Indian because of being displaced and toward the Negro because of being here through no wish of their own.

    The first attempt at cooperative financing is made in Denver.

1889  Hull House, the most famous settlement house, is opened on September 14 by Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr on Chicago's West Side.

1890  How the Other Half Lives, by Jacob A. Riis, is published. A documentary and photographic account of housing conditions in New York City slums, it helps initiate the U.S. public housing movement.

1893  In September, Lillian Wald founds the Nurses Settlement, a private nonsectarian home nursing service. In 1895 it moved to become the famous Henry Street Settlement.

1894  American Charities, by Amos G. Warner, is published. A social work classic, it is the first systematic attempt to describe the field of charities in the United States and to formulate the principles of relief.

1895  The first Federation of Jewish Charities is established in Boston.

1896  The first special class for "mentally deficient" people in an American public school is established in Providence, Rhode Island.

    Volunteers of America is founded.

1897  The first state hospital for crippled children is founded in Minnesota.

1898  The first social work training school is established as an annual summer course for agency workers by the New York Charity Organization Society, which in 1904 becomes the New York School of Philanthropy (and later the Columbia University School of Social Work).

    The National Federation of Day Nurseries is organized.

1899  The first US juvenile court is established in June as part of the Circuit Court of Chicago.

    Florence Kelley, who initiated fact-finding as a basic approach to social action, organizes the National Consumers League in New York City. The league is a combination of several local leagues, the earliest of which was formed in New York by Josephine Shaw Lowell to campaign against sweatshops and to obtain limits on hours of work for girls.

    Friendly Visiting Among the Poor by Mary E. Richmond, is published in January as "A Handbook of Charity Workers."

    The National Conference of Jewish Charities is established in New York to coordinate the developing network of private Jewish social services.
20TH CENTURY

1902 Maryland enacts the first US. worker's compensation law, which is declared unconstitutio- nal in 1904.

Care of Destitute, Neglected and Delinquent Children, by Homer Folks, founder of the New York State Charities Aid Association, is a major influence on service directions in child welfare.

Goodwill Industries of America is founded.

1903 The Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy (now the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration) is founded by Graham Taylor.

1904 The National Child Labor Committee, which is organized by a combination of New York and Chicago settlement groups, becomes primarily responsible for the 1909 White House Conference on Children.

The New York School of Philanthropy (now the Columbia University School of Social Work) is founded, with a one-year educational program.

The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis (later the National Tuberculosis Association and now the American Lung Association) is founded on March 28.

Poverty, the classic work by Robert Hunter, is published; it states that at least 10 million Americans, or one out of every eight, are poor.

1905 Medical social work is initiated with the employment of Garnet I. Pelton by Richard L. Cabot, MD, at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

1906 The National Recreation Association is organized, later becoming the National Recreation and Park Association following a 1965 merger of the American Institute of Park Executives, American Recreation Society, National Conference on State Parks, and National Recreation Association.

The Boys Clubs of America is founded in Boston.

The first school social workers' programs are introduced in Boston, Hartford, and New York under private agencies.

1907 The Russell Sage Foundation is incorporated "to improve the social and living conditions in the United States"; it later financed publication of the Social Work Year Book (now the Encyclopedia of Social Work, published by the NASW Press).

Psychiatric social work is initiated with the employment of Edith Burleigh and M. Antoinette Cannon by James J. Putnam, MD, to work with mental patients in the neurological clinic of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

The National Probation Association is founded (renamed the National Probation and Parole Association in 1947 and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency in 1960).

1908 The first community welfare council is organized in Pittsburgh as the Pittsburgh Associated Charities.

A Mind That Found Itself by Clifford Beers, is published. An exposé of the inadequacies of mental hospitals, it initiates the mental health movement.

The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America begins to coordinate its network of social services.

Workers' compensation is enacted by the federal government; it represents the earliest form of social insurance in the United States.

1909 The National Committee for Mental Hygiene (now the National Mental Health Association) is founded by Clifford Beers.

Jane Addams is elected as the first woman president of the National Conference of Charities and Correction (later the National Council on Social Welfare).
England's Royal Poor Law Commission majority report seeks to modify the Poor Law as "the principle of 1834:” defining the relationship of private, voluntary welfare organizations to the public assistance system. The minority recommends breaking up the Poor Law and transferring responsibility to divisions of local government, implying the creation of universal services and anticipating features of a 20th-century welfare state.

The Juvenile Psychopathic Institute is established in Chicago by Dr. Williwn Healy, on the initiative of Julia Lathrop, to study offenders brought to the juvenile court. The institute initiates delinquency research and examination of children by a professional team.

The first White House Conference on Children (concerned with the care of dependent children) is initiated under the sponsorship of President Theodore Roosevelt on the suggestion of James E. West, who later heads the Boy Scouts of America.

The Pittsburgh Survey, the first exhaustive description and analysis of a substantial modern city, is begun.

The Niagara Movement stimulates the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in May. The NAACP is a broad-based organization with interracial membership.

**1910** The Boy Scouts of America is founded by William D. Boyce. It originally was started in England by Lord Baden Powell.

The American Camping Association is founded to research, develop, and implement a program of inspection and accreditation of camps.

Camp Fire Girls (now Camp Fire Boys and Girls) is founded.

Catholic Charities is founded.

The first social work training program for black workers is started by Dr. George Edmund Haynes at Fisk University in Nashville. The National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes (now the National Urban League) is organized by Dr. George E. Haynes and Eugene Kinckle Jones through a union of the Committee for Improving the Industrial Conditions of Negroes in New York (formed in 1907); the National League for the Protection of Colored Women (formed in 1906); and the Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes (formed in 1910).

**1911** The First Mother's Aid Law is enacted in Illinois.

The first state workers' compensation law that was not later declared unconstitutional is enacted by the state of Washington.

The American Association for Organizing Family Social Work is formed to promote the development of family social work. (In 1930 the organization becomes the Family Welfare Association of America and in 1946 the Family Service Association of America. In 1983 the name is changed to Family Service America; in 1995 it is Families International, Inc.)

Catholic Big Brothers is founded.

Social workers are placed on payrolls of New York's mental hospitals. Aftercare work soon becomes an integral part of the services of such institutions throughout the United States.

The National Federation of Settlements is founded. (It became the National Federation of Settlements & Neighborhood Centers in 1959 and the United Neighborhood Centers of America in 1979.)

**1912** The Children's Bureau Act (ch. 73, 37 Stat. 79) is passed on April 9. It establishes the U.S. Children's Bureau as a separate government agency, based on an idea initiated by Florence Kelley and Lillian Wald, Julia C. Lathrop is appointed the first chief.

Girl Scouts of the United States of America is founded.

Survey Associates, Inc., a membership society combining research and journalism methods for the advancement of general welfare, is founded. Publications are used as "shuttles of understanding"; Paul Kellogg is editor. *Survey Midmonthly* spans the fields of social work, and *Survey Graphic*, which is addressed to lay readers, swings wider arcs of social and economic concern.

**1913** *Social Insurance*, by I. M. Rubinow, advocates a comprehensive social insurance system to protect against sickness, old age, industrial accidents, invalidism, death, and unemployment.
The Modern Community Chest movement is begun with the organization of the Cleveland Federation for Charity and Philanthropy as an experiment in federated financing, after a first trial in Denver in 1888. The Community Chests and Councils of America is organized in 1918. The US. Department of Labor and Department of Commerce are established on March 4.

1914  National Negro Health Week, the first health program for Negroes inaugurated by a Negro, is begun by Booker T Washington.
      The Joint Distribution Committee for Relief of Jewish War Sufferers (now American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) is founded.

1915  The Bureau for the Exchange of Information Among Child-Helping Organizations is founded.
      Abraham Flexner in his address to the National Conference of Charities and Correction on "Is Social Work a Profession?" states social work does not qualify as a bona fide profession, consequently stimulating continual definition efforts by social workers.

1916  National health insurance is advocated by I. M. Rubinow, executive secretary of the American Medical Association Social Insurance Commission.
      The American Birth Control League is founded (becoming the Planned Parenthood Federation of America in 1939).
      The first birth control clinic is opened by Margaret Sanger in Brooklyn, New York.
      The Child Labor Act (ch. 676, 520 Stat. 1060) is passed by Congress on June 25; the act forbids interstate commerce of goods manufactured by child labor and is declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1918.

1917  Social Diagnosis, by Mary Richmond, is published in May. It is the first textbook on social casework, marking the development of a body of social work knowledge and techniques.
      The first state department of public welfare is established in Illinois.
      The National Conference of Charities and Correction becomes the National Conference of Social Work.
      The National Social Workers Exchange (becoming, in 1921, the American Association of Social Workers and merging with other organizations to form NASW in 1955) is organized as "the only social work organization with specific concern for matters of personnel [and] additional functions pertaining to professional standards:"
      The National Jewish Welfare Board is established (becoming the Jewish Welfare Board in 1977 and the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America in 1990).

1918  The American Association of Hospital Social Workers is organized. (It becomes the American Association of Medical Social Workers in 1934 and merges with other organizations to form NASW in 1955.)
      The National Association of Jewish Center Workers is organized. (In 1970 it becomes the Association of Jewish Center Professionals.)
      The first formal training program for psychiatric social workers is instituted at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.
      The Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1918 (ch. 107, 40 Stat. 617) is passed on June 27. It establishes the first national program that provides physically handicapped veterans with vocational training and prostheses and, in 1920, is extended to provide rehabilitation in civilian life.
      The Community Chests and Councils of America is founded. (In 1956 it becomes the United Community Funds and Councils of America and in 1970 the United Way.)

1919  The National Association of Visiting Teachers is formed. (It later becomes the National Association of School Social Workers, which subsequently merges with other organizations to form NASW in 1955.)
      The Association of Training Schools for Professional Social Work (a forerunner of the American Association of Schools of Social Work, now the Council on Social Work Education) is
formed by leaders of 15 schools of social work. It is the first organization concerned exclusively with social work education and educational standards in Canada and the United States.

1920 The Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy becomes the Graduate School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago.

The Atlanta School of Social Service (now the Atlanta School of Social Work) opens in September, originating from Institutes of Social Service sponsored by the Neighborhood Union of Morehouse College from 1919 to 1920. Complete professionalization comes under the directorship of E. Franklin Frazier in 1922. The school is incorporated and chartered on March 22, 1924.

The National Conference of Catholic Charities is founded to coordinate a network of sectarian social services.

The right of women to vote is passed on August 18 as the 19th amendment.

The Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) is founded. (In 1976 CWLA absorbs the Florence Crittenton Association.)

1921 The National Social Workers Exchange becomes the American Association of Social Workers (which later merges into NASW), the first national professional association of all social workers.

The Social Work Publicity Council is founded as the primary agency for interpreting social problems and social work. The council served as clearinghouse for ideas and materials on public relations and published Channels periodical and special bulletins.

The Maternity and Infancy Hygiene Act (Sheppard-Towner Act) (ch. 135, 42 Stat. 224), which provides for the first national maternal and child health program, is passed by Congress on November 23. The Commonwealth Fund establishes demonstration clinics for child guidance, initiating the child guidance clinic movement and establishing the essential role of social workers.

The Association of Junior Leagues of America is founded. (It becomes the Association of Junior Leagues in 1971 and the Association of Junior Leagues International in 1990.)

1923 The Jewish Welfare Society of Philadelphia establishes the first organized homemaker service.

The first course in group work in a school of social work is introduced at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, by Clara Kaiser.

*Education and Training for Social Work* is published, detailing the first major study of social work education conducted by James H. Tufts, professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago.

1924 The Atlanta School of Social Work is incorporated on March 22 as the first Negro school.

1926 The American Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, originally a section of the American Association of Hospital Social Workers, is organized. (It later merges into NASW)

1927 The first school of social work is professionally certified by the American Association of Schools of Social Work.

The American Association for Old Age Security is organized to further national interest in legislation for aged people; Abraham Epstein is appointed as the director.

1928 The Milford Conference on November 9 and 10 accepts a committee report defining generic social casework and promulgating the principle that process in social casework and the equipment of the social worker should be basically the same for all fields of practice.

The International Conference of Social Work (ICSW) is formed during the first international conference of philanthropists, charity organizers, social workers, government officials, and others in Paris. The organization later became the International Council on Social Welfare.
1929  The Social Work Year Book (now the Encyclopedia of Social Work) is initiated under the auspices of the Russell Sage Foundation. (Publication is transferred to AASW in 1951 and to NASW in 1955.)

The International Committee of Schools of Social Work (ICSSW) is formed by 46 schools in 10 countries. The impetus for the new organization came from the 1928 international conference, in which participants called for social work education as a means of professionalizing social work and improving services. (ICSSW later became the International Association of Schools of Social Work, IASSW).

1930  The American Public Welfare Association is founded.

1931  The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to renowned social worker Jane Addams. The Temporary Emergency Relief Administration is established in New York State by Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt as a prototype of federal public relief to unemployed people.

1932  President Herbert Hoover signs the Emergency Relief and Construction Act (ch. 520, 47 Stat. 709) into law on July 21; a provision of the act enables the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to lend money to states for relief purposes, moving federal government into the field of public relief.

Formal accreditation is initiated by the American Association of Schools of Social Work with development of a minimum curriculum requiring at least one academic year of professional education encompassing both classroom and field instruction.

The Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds is founded. (In 1978 it becomes the Council of Jewish Federations.)

1933  The Civilian Conservation Corps Act (ch. 17, 48 Stat. 22) is passed by Congress on March 31. The act is established to meet part of the need caused by the Great Depression by providing work and education programs for unemployed and unmarried young men ages 17 to 23 years. The Federal Emergency Relief Act (ch. 30, 48 Stat. 55) is passed on May 12. It creates the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), which provides 25 percent matching and direct grants to states for public distribution for relief. Social worker Harry Hopkins becomes the director on May 22. (On April 8, 1935, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration is superseded by the Works Progress Administration, which is phased out in 1943.)

1934  The first licensing law for social workers is passed in Puerto Rico and is a precursor to later state laws.

The National Housing Act (ch. 847, 48 Stat. 1246) is enacted by Congress on June 27. It is the first law in U.S. history designed to promote housing construction.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to raise funds for a Warm Springs Foundation, Georgia, treatment center. It becomes the successful Annual March of Dimes under Basil O'Connor.

Social Work Today, progressive publication of 1930s depression period, is begun by Social Work Today, Inc. This individual and organizational membership group also published professional pamphlets and conducted educational activities; it was discontinued in 1942.

1935  The Health, Education and Welfare Act (Social Security Act; ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620) is passed by Congress on August 14, providing old age assistance benefits, a Social Security Board, grants to states for unemployment compensation administration, aid to dependent children, maternal and child welfare, public health work, and aid to blind people. Social worker Jane M. Hoey is appointed as the first director of the Federal Bureau of Public Assistance, which administers federal-state aid to aged people, blind people, and dependent children under the provisions of the act.

The National Conference on Social Work, in its reorganization, recognizes group work as a major function of social work along with social casework, community organization, and social action.
The Works Progress Administration is created by presidential executive order on May 6-and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration is terminated-to shift the federal government from home relief to work relief. The administration is committed to provide work "for able-bodied but destitute workers."

The National Youth Administration is created by presidential executive order on June 26 as a division of the Works Progress Administration to provide work and school aid under direction of social worker Aubrey Williams.

1936 The American Association for the Study of Group Work is organized. (In 1946 it becomes the American Association of Group Workers and merges into NASW in 1955.)

1937 A state-administered program in North Carolina pioneers the development of family planning as part of maternal and child health services.

The Housing Act (ch. 896, 50 Stat. 885) is passed by Congress on September 1 to provide subsidies and credit to states and local governments. It is the first attempt to finance residential accommodations for tenants not exclusively federal employees.

1938 The Works Progress Administration Act (ch. 554, 52 Stat. 809) is passed by Congress on June 21.

The National Association of Day Nurseries, formerly the National Federation of Day Nurseries founded in 1898, is established. (The organization becomes the National Association for the Education of Young Children in 1964.)

1939 A food stamp plan to dispose of agricultural commodities is begun in Rochester, New York.

1941 The United Service Organization is incorporated in February to coordinate services provided to armed forces and defense workers by six voluntary agencies: (1) National Jewish Welfare Board, (2) National Catholic Community Service, (3) National Traveler's Aid Association, (4) Salvation Army, (5) YMCA, and (6) YWCA.

1942 The first U.S. responsibility to provide day care for children of working mothers is initiated through the Lanham Act (ch. 260, 55 Stat. 361), providing 50 percent matching grants to local communities for use in operation of day care centers and family day care homes.

The United Seaman's Service is established in the National Maritime Union in September to provide medical, social work, and other services to merchant seamen; Bertha C. Reynolds is named the director.

The National Association of Schools of Social Administration (now the Council on Social Work Education) is formed by 34 land grant college undergraduate social work programs.

1943 The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is established by 44 nations for postwar relief and refugee settlement.

The American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service is established "to promote joint program planning and coordination of national voluntary agency activities on foreign relief and rehabilitation."

1944 The Servicemen's Readjustment Act (ch. 268, 58 Stat. 284), the "G.I. Bill of Rights:" provides education and training through state-administered payments to educational units; subsistence allowance; loans for purchase or construction of homes, farms, or business property; job counseling and employment placement; and 52 weeks of adjustment allowances. It is liberalized by Amendment 12/21A5 (ch. 588, PL 268). It initiated many men into the social work profession.

1945 The National Social Welfare Assembly formerly the National Social Work Council formed in 1923, is organized. (It is now the National Assembly of National Voluntary Health and Social Welfare Organizations.)
The United Nations is chartered in April, including the Economic and Social Council, to provide "international machinery for the promotion and social advancement of all peoples" and coordinate agencies dealing with social welfare problems, such as the World Health Organization, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, International Labor Office, and International Refugee Organization.

Common Human Needs, by Charlotte Towle and published by the Federal Security Agency reaffirms the principle of public assistance services as a right and the need for public assistance staffs to understand psychological needs and forces and their relationship to social forces and experiences. (Banned by the federal government in 1951, it is then distributed by the American Association of Social Workers.)

The Girls Clubs of America is founded. (The organization becomes Girls, Inc., in 1990.)

1946 The Hospital Survey and Construction Act (ch. 958, 60 Stat. 1040), or Hill-Burton Act (PL 79725), is passed by Congress, initiating massive construction and expansion of inpatient hospital facilities with significant standards requirements for community participation.

The National Mental Health Act (ch. 538, 60 Stat. 421), passed on July 3, recognizes mental illness as a national public health problem.

The Association for the Study of Community Organization is formed. (It merges into NASW in 1955.)

The Full Employment Act (ch. 33, 60 Stat. 23) is passed by Congress on February 20. It establishes a policy of federal responsibility for employment and is not yet implemented.

Big Brothers of America is founded. (in 1977 it merges with Big Sisters to form Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America.)

1948 The American Association of Social Workers and School of Applied Social Sciences of Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve University) sponsors a conference that helps define the identity and function of research in social work as distinguished from social research.

1949 The Social Work Research Group is organized. (It merges into NASW in 1955.)

1950 Social Workers in 1950, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is the first survey of 75,000 social workers, with 50,000 replies.

The Social Security Act Amendments (ch. 809, 64 Stat. 477) are passed on August 28. The amendments establish a program of aid to permanently and totally disabled people and broaden Aid to Dependent Children (later Aid to Families with Dependent Children) to include relatives with whom a child is living. The amendments extend Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance and liberalize other programs.

The National Council on Aging is founded.

1951 Social Work Education in the United States, by Ernest V Hollis and Alice L. Taylor, is published. Generally known as the Hollis-Taylor Report, it is a comprehensive study of social work education "in relation to the responsibility of social work in the broad field of social welfare."

The American Association of Social Workers reissues Common Human Needs after the federal government burns its stock in response to pressure from the American Medical Association.


1952 The U.S. Children's Bureau grants funds for special projects to develop and coordinate statewide programs for medical and social services to unwed mothers.

The Council on Social Work Education is created from temporary study and a coordinating body, the National Council on Social Work Education (in 1946), to unite the school accrediting responsibility of the National Association of Schools of Social Administration and the American Association of Schools of Social Work. The council includes board representatives of schools, faculty, agencies, and the public for educational policy and decisions.
The U.S. Committee of the International Conference on Social Welfare is formed.

1953  The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare is established on April 11.

1954  Rutland Corner House in Brookline, Massachusetts, is established as the first urban transitional residence (halfway house) for mental patients.  
       Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, (347 US. 483) eliminates the 11 separate but equal" doctrine in educational facilities.

       The National Association of Puerto Rican Hispanic Social Workers is organized.

1957  The Civil Rights Act (PL 85-315, 71 Stat. 634) is passed by Congress on September 9. It is the first such act since 1875; it establishes the Commission on Civil Rights and strengthens federal enforcement powers.
       NASW publishes the 13th edition of the Social Work Year Book.

1958  A Working Definition of Social Work Practice, developed by the National Commission on Practice headed by Harriett Bartlett, is published by NASW It establishes the basic constellation of elements of social work practice: values, purpose, sanction, knowledge, and method.

1959  The Social Work Curriculum Study, by Werner W Boehm, director and coordinator, is published by the Council on Social Work Education. The 13-volume study is a "milestone in the development of effective educational programs for professions."

1960  The National Committee for Day Care is established to promote day care as an essential part of child welfare services and to develop standards of care.
       Newburgh, New York, legislates 13 restrictive work requirements for welfare recipients, precipitating a nationwide retrogression in public welfare.

1961  The Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Offenses Control Act (PL 87-274, 75 Stat. 572), which recognizes economic and social factors leading to crime, is passed by Congress. The act authorizes grant funds for demonstration projects for comprehensive delinquency programs in ghettos.
       The Academy of Certified Social Workers is incorporated by NASW to promote standards for professional social work practice and the protection of social welfare clients. It requires a master of social work degree and two years of supervised practice by an Academy of Certified Social Workers member

1962  The Other America, by Michael Harrington, is published, awakening the United States to the problem of poverty.
       The Manpower Development and Training Act (PL 87-415) is passed by Congress to provide government financing of training to move unemployed and displaced workers into new fields.

1963  The Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act (PL 88-164, 77 Stat. 282) is passed on October 31, authorizing appropriations to states that started significant development of community health and retardation services with single state agency administration and advisory committees with consumer representation.
       The Civil Rights March on Washington is held at the peak of the civil rights coalition movement.
1964  The Civil Rights Act (PL 88-352, 78 Stat. 241) is passed by Congress on July 2 and results in significant changes for racial and ethnic groups in institutional health care programs and procedures to ensure equal treatment, in policies to eliminate discrimination in employment and pre-employment, and in policies to open entry opportunities in particular occupations.

The Food Stamp Act (PL 88-525, 78 Stat. 703) is passed on August 31 to provide cooperative federal-state food assistance programs for improved levels of nutrition in low-income households.

The Economic Opportunity Act (PL 88452, 78 Stat. 5088) is passed by Congress on August 20, establishing the Office of Economic Opportunity and calling for the creation of Volunteers in Service to America, Job Corps, Upward Bound, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Operation Head Start, and Community Action programs.

1965  The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (PL 89-10, 79 Stat. 27) is passed on April 11, initiating the first major infusion of federal funds into the US educational system. The act provides aid to economically disadvantaged children, counseling and guidance services, community education, and planning.

The Older Americans Act (PL 89-73, 79 Stat. 218) is passed by Congress on July 14, creating the Administration on Aging, the first central body within the federal government dealing with aging.

The Social Security Amendments ("Medicare Act"; PL. 89-97, 79 Stat. 286) are enacted on July 30 as Title XVIII of the Security Act. The amendments provide federal health insurance benefits for aged (older than 65 years) and entitled people to benefits under Title 11. The amendments establish a compulsory hospital-based program for aged people; a voluntary supplemental plan to provide physicians and other health services; and an expanded medical assistance program (Medicaid) for needy and medically needy aged, blind, and disabled people and their families.

Medicaid, enacted on July 30 as Title XIX of the Social Security Act, provides federal grants to match state programs of hospital and medical services for welfare recipients and medically indigent populations.

Abstracts for Social Workers is initiated by NASW under contract with the National Institute for Mental Health. (The journal is subsequently titled Social Work Research & Abstracts when a primary research journal is added in 1977 and retitled Social Work Abstracts when the two journals are separated in 1994.)

Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke Amendments (PL 89-239, 79 Stat. 926), or Regional Medical Programs, provide grants for planning to establish regular cooperative arrangements among medical schools, research institutions, and hospitals to meet local health needs. The amendments require broadly representative advisory committees and involve key social worker leadership.

The Academy of Certified Social Workers is promoted by NASW as a national standard-setting body for social work practice.

Closing the Gap in Social Work Manpower is published by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in November; it projects escalating demands for social workers and delineates the master of social work and bachelor of social work classifications. It also plays an exceptional role in focusing labor force problems and advocating for the bachelor of social work as an entry professional classification.

Griswold v. State of Connecticut (381 US. 479) holds against state fine of Planned Parenthood for providing contraceptive information to married people. It initiates a constitutional concept of privacy formulated by Thomas I. Emerson, which later leads to the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973.


1966  The Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act (PL 89-793, 80 Stat. 1438), passed by Congress on November 8, emphasizes total treatment and aftercare rather than criminal prosecution and fragmented efforts, providing pretrial civil commitment in the custody of the Surgeon General for treatment.
The Comprehensive Health Planning and Public Health Services Amendments of 1966 (PL 89-749, 80 Stat. 1180), passed by Congress on November 3, authorizes grants to support comprehensive state planning for health services, labor, and facilities. The Veteran's Readjustment Benefits Act (FL. 89-358, 80 Stat. 12) enhances service in the armed forces, extending higher education and providing vocational readjustment. It also emphasizes programs requiring veterans to make contributions to their own educational programs.

The Society for Hospital Social Work Directors is formed under the auspices of the American Hospital Association. (In 1993 the society changes its name to the Society for Social Work Administrators in Health Care to reflect changes in health care.)

1967 In May, the US. Supreme Court in the In re Gault decision rules that timely notice of all charges against a juvenile must be given and that a child has the right to be represented by legal counsel, to confront and cross-examine complainants, and to be protected against self-incrimination in juvenile delinquency proceedings.

The Child Health Act (PL 90-248, 81 Stat. 821), passed by Congress on January 2, adds three new types of medical care project grants: (1) infant care, (2) family planning, and (3) dental care to social security.

1968 The National Association of Black Social Workers, the National Association of Puerto Rican Social Service Workers, and the Asian American Social Workers are established.

The Southwest Council of La Raza is organized. (In 1973 it becomes the National Council of La Raza, a major national coalition.)

1969 Richard M. Nixon proposes the Family Assistance Plan in a historic message to Congress. He asserts the welfare system has failed and recommends a federal welfare system with a virtually guaranteed annual income. The House, but not the Senate, passes the plan, which is subsequently reintroduced in 1971. After two years of negotiation with welfare groups, the plan is withdrawn.

The bachelor of social work degree is recognized for NASW membership as a result of a national membership referendum and is implemented in 1970.

The Social Worker's Professional Liability Insurance program is started by the NASW administration; it is transferred to the NASW Insurance Trust in 1985.

The Association of American Indian Social Workers is founded. (In 1981 it becomes the Association of Indian and Alaskan Native Social Workers, and in 1984, the National Indian Social Workers Association.)

1971 The ACTION agency is formed through President Nixon's reorganization plan, centralizing direction of volunteer agencies, including Volunteers in Service to America, Peace Corps, and others, and beginning a pattern of reductions.

Congress passes the Comprehensive Child Development Act to provide comprehensive high quality day care and support services to all children. President Nixon vetoes the act.

The Educational Legislative Action Network (ELAN) is initiated by NASW as a national congressional district legislative structure; ELAN commits the social work profession to legislative advocacy as a professional responsibility.

NASW initiates the objective examination, the first national testing of social work knowledge and practice, for the Academy of Certified Social Workers.

The National Federation of Clinical Social Workers is established. (In 1976 it becomes the National Federation of Societies for Clinical Social Work.)

1972 Community-based work and education programs for juvenile delinquents are established by the Massachusetts Youth Services Department to replace juvenile reformatories.

Supplemental Security Income (PL 92-603, 86 Stat. 1328) establishes a separate program administration for aged, blind, and disabled populations in the Social Security Amendments of 1972, (PL 92-603, 86 Stat. 1329), which are passed on October 30 and become effective on January 1, 1974.
The State and Local Fiscal Act (PL 92-512, 86 Stat. 919), "Revenue Sharing;' becomes a landmark in the federal-state-local relationship, providing states and localities with specified portions of federal individual income tax collections to be used for nine specific priority expenditures.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Act (FL. 92-261, 86 Stat. 103) is passed to grant the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission authority to issue judicially enforceable cease-and-desist orders. The act establishes a quasijudicial agency to implement national policy of employment opportunity without discrimination of race, color, religion, national origin, or gender.

The landmark legal principle of "right to treatment" is established in Wyatt v. Stickney (344 F Supp. 387, M.D. Ala., N.D. 1972) by Frank M. Johnson, Jr., chief judge of the U.S. Middle District Court in Montgomery, Alabama. The ruling sets forth minimal constitutional standards of care, treatment, and habilitation for patients involuntarily confined to public mental hospitals in Alabama.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse is established on March 21 by the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act (PL 92-255, 86 Stat. 65) to provide leadership, policies, and goals for the total federal effort to prevent, control, and treat narcotic addiction and drug abuse.

Professional Standards Review Organizations are initiated on October 30 as part of the Social Security Amendments. This national program of local and state organizations establishes service standards and reviews quality and costs of health services provided to beneficiaries of Medicare, Medicaid, and maternal and child health programs. Through NASW intervention, the program includes social workers in all phases.

1973  The Health Maintenance Organization Act (PL 93-222, 87 Stat. 914) is enacted on December 29, authorizing federal aid to support and stimulate group medical practice. Through NASW intervention, the act includes social services components and standards.

Roe v. Wade (410 U.S. 179) determines that a Texas statute prohibiting abortion violates the due process clause of the 14th amendment. The decision establishes that trimester stages of pregnancy determine state's limits on regulation of abortions. It also affirms the right of privacy.

The Children's Defense Fund is founded by Marian Wright Edelman to "provide long-range advocacy on behalf of nation's children."

1974  The Council on Social Work Education offers accreditation to bachelor of social work programs.


The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA; PL 92-603) initiates extensive job education and experience opportunities for unemployed people.

1975  The National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-641, 88 Stat. 2225) is enacted on January 4, combining regional medical programs, comprehensive health planning, and Hill Burton programs to establish an integrated system of national, state, and area planning agencies with consumer majorities on policy bodies.

The Social Service Amendments of 1974 (PL 93-647, 88 Stat. 2337), Title XX of the Social Security Act, are enacted on January 3, initiating comprehensive social services programs directed toward achieving economic self-support and preventing dependence. Five levels of services, meeting federal standards, are implemented by states with 75 percent federal subsidy The amendments were initiated and planned as a result of NASW opposition and coalition-building against the Nixon administration's attempt to misuse regulations to reduce social services expenditures.

The Education for All Handicapped Children Act (PL 94-142, 89 Stat. 773), enacted on November 29, extends national public education policy to mandate free public education for all handicapped people. The provision for social work services in the public schools by 1978 is included through NASW intervention.
1976 The Political Action for Candidate Election in initiated as a political action committee of NASW, committing the social work profession to political action as a professional responsibility.

In a class action suit, Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. of the US. Middle District Court in Montgomery Alabama, rules on January 13 that conditions of confinement in the Alabama penal system constitute cruel and unusual punishment where they bear no reasonable relationship to legitimate institutional goals.

The Health Professional Educational Assistance Act (PL 94-484, 90 Stat. 2243), enacted on October 12, applies to all health professions and authorizes funding to train social workers in health care, including administration, policy analysis, and social work. This is the first mention of schools of social work in national health legislation.

The International Code of Ethics for Professional Social Workers, written by Chauncey A. Alexander, is adopted at the Puerto Rico Assembly by the International Federation of Social Workers, which consists of 52 national professional social worker organizations.

NASW endorses Carter and Mondale, the Democratic Party candidates for president and vice president, initiating the NASW Political Action for Candidate Election program to raise funds for political action, the first such political effort for a professional social work organization.

The Rural Social Work Caucus is initiated to aid rural social workers.

Health & Social Work, the first health specialty journal, is published by NASW.


1978 The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act (PL 95-266, 92 Stat. 205) is passed on April 24, extending the 1974 act and initiating new programs to encourage and improve adoptions.

The Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act (PL 95-523, 68 Stat. 590) is passed on October 27 by Congress through the tenacity of Congressman Augustus Hawkins (D-CA). The act reaffirms the right of all Americans to employment and asserts the federal government responsibility to promote full employment, production and real income, balanced growth, and better economic policy planning and coordination.

Social Work in Education, a journal for school social workers, is published by NASW.

1979 The American Association of State Social Work Boards is initiated by NASW; the association consists of state boards and authorities empowered to regulate the practice of social work within their own jurisdictions.

1980 The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (PL 96-272) restructures child welfare services, mandating reasonable efforts to prevent out-of-home placement.

1981 The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (PL 97-35, 95 Stat. 357), passed by Congress on August 13, initiates a federal policy reversal of 11 general welfare responsibility for human services, reducing federal programs (including food stamps, child nutrition, comprehensive employment and training, mental health, and community development) by means of block grants under the guise of decentralization to states.

The Social Service Block Grant Act (PL 97-35, 95 Stat. 357), passed by Congress on August 13, and part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, amends Title XX of the Social Security Act to consolidate social services programs and to decentralize responsibility to the states.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) are first identified in the United States and soon are defined as an epidemic. New requirements of social workers are initiated: They must further their knowledge of transmission and prevention of the virus, adapt practice techniques, and act on civil rights and service policies.

1982 The Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (PL 97-248, 96 Stat. 324), passed by Congress on September 3, initiates severe reductions in service provisions of Medicare, Medicaid, Utilization and Quality Control Peer Review, Aid to Families with Dependent Children,
child support enforcement, supplemental security income, and unemployment compensation. The legislation provides the "largest tax increase ever recommended in a single piece of legislation." It gives Medicare beneficiaries the option to enroll in health maintenance organizations.

1983  The Social Security Amendments (PL 98-81, 97 Stat. 65), passed on April 20, secure the program, providing mandatory coverage of federal employees and employees of nonprofit organizations, withdrawing and reducing benefits such as cost of living delay to calendar year, increasing retirement age, and reducing initial benefits.

The Hospital Prospective Payment System replaces Medicare cost reimbursement systems with predetermined payment rates for 468 diagnosis related groups, initiating significant role changes for social workers in discharge planning and increased service coordination requirements.

1985  The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) encourages states to provide case management as an optional Medicaid service.

The National Network for Social Work Managers is formed as a professional society by Robert Maslyn to advance knowledge, theory, and practice of management and administration in social services and the social work profession and to obtain recognition of social work managers.

1986  The Immigration Reform and Control Act (PL 99-603) provides temporary resident status for undocumented workers who have continuously resided in the United States since before January 1, 1982. The act allows them to become permanent residents after an additional 18-month period. Provisions make it unlawful for any person to knowingly employ undocumented workers. The objectives of the act are to decrease the number of illegal aliens as current residents, regain control of U.S. borders, and increase the number of legal migrant workers.

The Tax Reform Act (PL 99-514) reduces and consolidates tax brackets into two basic rates: (1) 15 percent and (2) 28 percent. The law increases the standard deduction for all taxpayers, with the largest increases for heads of households, single parents, and others who maintain households for dependent children. The Earned Income Tax Credit provision significantly increases the credit and raises the income levels at which the credit begins to be reduced and eliminated.

NASW establishes the National Center for Social Policy and Practice to analyze practice data and make recommendations on social policy, including information, policy, and education services.

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act (PL 99-570) creates the Office for Substance Abuse Prevention in the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration. It also includes funding for a White House Conference for a Drug-Free America in fiscal year 1988 and authorizes funding of $450 million over three years to develop drug education and prevention programs through a new Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

The Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments (PL 99-457) establish a new federal discretionary program to assist states to develop and implement early intervention services for handicapped infants and toddlers (birth through age two) and their families. Seven criteria for 11 early intervention services include provisions for qualified personnel, including social workers, and individualized family service plans; the states must serve all children.

1987  The Social Work Dictionary (1st edition), the first compilation of terms related to social work, is published by NASW.

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (PL 100-77) establishes the Interagency Council on Homeless to use public resources and programs in a more coordinated manner and to provide funds to assist homeless people, especially elderly people, people with disabilities, families with children, Native Americans, and veterans.

1988  The Family Support Act (PL 100-485) alters welfare provisions in critical ways. The act
includes provisions for improved child support enforcement; state-run education, training, and employment programs for recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children; and supportive services for families during and after participation in employment and training. The act also establishes the Job Opportunities in the Business Sector program. Other provisions include guaranteed child care, transitional benefits, and reimbursement for work-related expenses.

The Hunger Prevention Act (PL 100-435) expands the federal food stamp program and initiates state outreach, employment, and training programs.

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (PL 96-272) requires states to offer prevention services before removing a child from a home.

The NASW Communications Network is established by Suzanne Dworak-Peck as an affiliate group to encourage socially conscious media programming and accurate portrayal of social issues and professional social work. The network uses a computerized network of several hundred social workers for technical medial assistance.

The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act (PL 100-360) limits yearly out-of-pocket expenses for beneficiaries; adds a prescription drug benefit; extends hospice, respite, and home health benefits; adds a Medicaid buy-in provision; and offers some protection of a couple's assets for nursing home care. The act later is rescinded by Congress as a result of senior citizen protests about added premium requirements.

The Augustus F Hawkins/Robert T Stafford Elementary and Secondary School Improvement Amendments (PL 100-297) authorize funding for elementary and secondary education, including Chapter I - Financial Assistance; Chapter II - Federal; State & Local Partnership for Educational Improvement; dropout prevention; suicide prevention; and other programs. For the first time, use of pupil service personnel (including social workers and other professionals) is promoted and, in some cases, required.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act (PL 100-259) overturns the 1984 Supreme Court Grove City College a Bell decision and clarifies that four major civil rights laws pertaining to gender, disability age, and race must be interpreted to prohibit discrimination throughout entire organizations if any program received federal funds.

1989 Appropriations legislation for fiscal year 1990 for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (PL 101-166) include requirements that the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) distribute clinical training funds equitably among five core mental health professions, increasing social work's share. Other provisions include encouraging scholarships for people with master of social work degrees to provide case management to people with AIDS, commending the NIMH Task Force on Social Work Research and Support for "services research;' and providing appropriations for research on rural mental health.

1990 The social work profession is legally regulated in 50 states and jurisdictions as of January 1, 1990.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 1210) is signed into law July 26 and becomes effective in 1992. This comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities prohibits employment discrimination (Title I); discrimination in state and local government services (Title II); and discrimination in public accommodations and commercial facilities (Title III).

The Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments (PL 101-476) increase access for students and their families to needed social work services.

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (PL 101-381) authorizes $880 million annually to provide emergency relief to metropolitan areas hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic. Other provisions address comprehensive planning, early intervention, treatment of children, and AIDS in rural areas.

The NASW School Social Work Specialist Credential is created to provide objective testing and certification of school social workers.

NASW transforms its publications department into the NASW Press.

1991 The NASW Academy of Certified Baccalaureate Social Workers is established to provide objective testing and certification of social workers with a bachelor of social work degree.
The Civil Rights Act (S. 1745, PL 102-166) amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to reverse a set of Supreme Court decisions that eroded protection of women and people of color in the workplace. Victims of intentional discrimination based on gender, disability, or religion, but not age, can obtain monetary damages.

1992 The Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA) Reorganization Act (PL 102-321) transfers the research function in mental health, alcohol, and other substance abuse to the National Institutes of Health and establishes separate state block grants for mental health and substance abuse services. The National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Drug Abuse, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism are moved from ADAMHA to the National Institutes of Health. ADAMHA, renamed the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, includes the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and the Center for Mental Health Services.

On June 9, Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) introduces the NASW National Health Care Proposal as S. 2817, the National Health Care Act. Based on NASW universal health care policies, it is the only bill to price out the costs of a new health care system.

The Preventive Health Amendments (PL 102-531) include a new Office of Adolescent Health in the Department of Health and Human Services. Among the responsibilities of the new office is the coordination of training for health providers, including social workers, who work with adolescents.

The Older Americans Act Amendments (PL 102-375) reauthorizes Older American Act programs for four years and include provisions for long-term care ombudsmen, legal assistance, outreach, counseling, and abuse and neglect prevention programs. The amendments authorize a White House Conference on Aging by the end of 1994; grants for training in gerontology in schools of social work; and counseling, training, and support services for caregivers.

The Higher Education Amendments (PL 102-325) create new opportunities for reduction and cancellation of federal Perkins loan indebtedness for social work students who seek employment in child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice, or other agencies serving high-risk children and families from low-income communities, as well as those who provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities.

The NASW Press publishes the Social Work Almanac, the first stand-alone compilation of statistics related to social work content.

1993 The National and Community Service Trust Act (PL 103-82) provides funds for community services, further institutionalizing the federal responsibility for meeting unmet social needs, including educational awards and living allowances for full-time community service.

The Family and Medical Leave Act (PL 103-3, 107 Stat. 6), passed on February 5, balances demands of workplace and family needs by requiring that employers of 50 or more employees allow up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave annually for a child's birth or adoption, the care of a spouse or immediate family member, or the employee's "serious health condition"—one requiring either inpatient care or ongoing treatment by a health provider.

The Family Preservation and Support Services Provisions (PL 103-66), part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, provide $1 billion for a comprehensive approach to improving the child welfare system, emphasizing prevention and early intervention to maintain a natural care system.

The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act PL 103-159) is signed by President Clinton on November 24. The bill institutes a five-day waiting period for handgun purchase, to be replaced in five years by a nationwide "instant check" system to ensure that guns are not being sold to criminals.

1994 The Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (PL 103-382) reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for five years. Provisions include the Elementary School Counseling Demonstration Act; Title 1, Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards; Title 11, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program; Title IV, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities; Families of Children with Disabilities Support Act; Urban and Rural Education Assistance; MultiEthnic Placement Act; and many others.
The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (PL 103-322) is signed by President Clinton on September 13. In addition to authorizing new prisons and other punishment provisions, the law includes 16 prevention programs, among them grants to combat violence against women, drug treatment programs, and a local crime prevention block grant program. The Violence Against Women Act of 1993, which increases penalties for offenders, authorizes funding for prevention and training, and provides protection for victims, is incorporated into PL 103-322.

The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (PL 103-259) is enacted on May 26 to combat violence against "abortion clinics." The act makes it a federal offense to restrict access to reproductive health services or to destroy the property of reproductive health services facilities.

The NASW Press separates Social Work Research & Abstracts and creates Social Work Abstracts, which publishes abstracts of previously published materials, and Social Work Research, which publishes primary research articles.

*Person-in-Environment* (PIE) System is published by the NASW Press to enable social workers to describe, classify, and code the problems of adult clients.

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As the social welfare historian Walter Trattner notes, "the words 'philanthropy' and 'charity' and the concepts for which they stand B love of mankind, love of humanity, brotherhood B are of Greek and Latin origin" (Trattner, 1999, pp. 1-2). The Arab world has also contributed to charitable traditions. This chapter sets out the history of social work debates about knowledge concerned with the shape of the discipline and profession of social work and then traces a history of practice responses that give social work its distinctive form. The term social welfare is an organized public or private social service for the assistance of disadvantaged groups of people. Social welfare has been a part of society since 1792 B.C. by King Hammurabi of Babylon and has continued to expand and help millions of people ever since. Many people have benefited from social welfare, although women but especially colored women have gained so much from the programs enacted by the federal government. The claim that the more progress we make, the worse it is for our society is not something that is evident to be true in terms of the progress and histor... 2013. Alexander, Chauncey A. Distinctive Dates in Social Welfare History. Huntington Beach: n.p., n.d. Print. Corbet, Christianne, and Catherine Hill.