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.

1977-1981: Overcoming Funding Barriers
1977: A bill made although legislative committee, 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.

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 3, 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 Deaf and Hard of Hearing which was changed the name to Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

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.

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.