

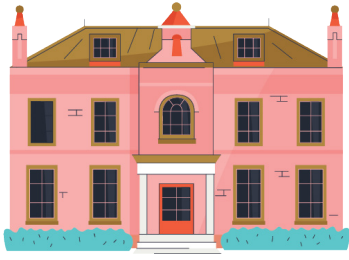


Easy Read Edition

Institutions: **The Old, The New, And What** **We Should Do**

Part 3: The History of Institutions

Words to Know in Part 3



State hospital

The first kind of institutions.



State school

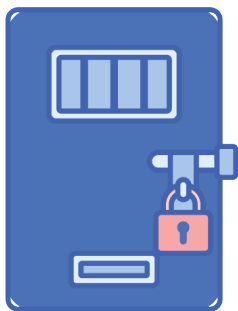
The first institutions just for people with intellectual disabilities.

The History of Institutions

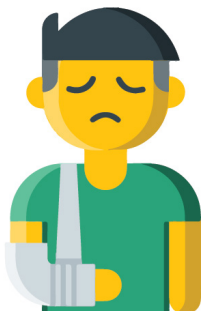
How did institutions get started?



Institutions first got made in the 1840s.



Before that, some people with disabilities got put in prisons.



People with disabilities got hurt in prisons.



They got hit or yelled at by the prison workers.



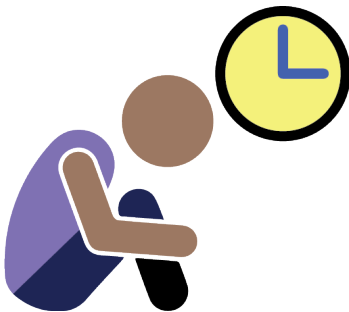
They didn't get food or water



They didn't get help going to the bathroom.



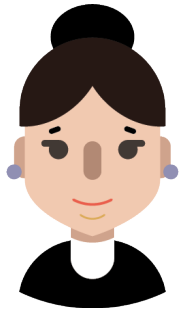
They got kept in cold rooms.



They got left alone for a long time.



They didn't get the health care they needed



A woman named Dorothea Dix saw people with disabilities in prisons.



She saw how they were getting hurt in prisons.



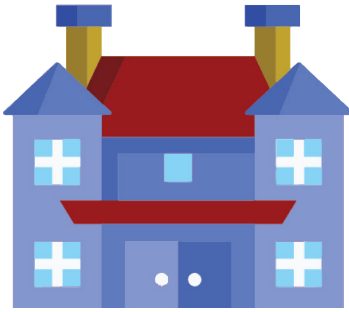
So she helped make different places to put people with disabilities.



These places were called state hospitals.



State hospitals were the first kind of institutions.



A few years later, another kind of institution got made.



These places were called state schools.



State schools were the first institutions just for people with intellectual disabilities

What were state schools like?



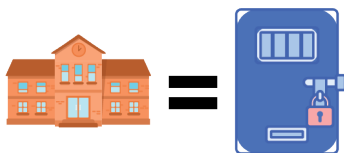
State schools got made to try and help people with disabilities.



People thought we wouldn't get hurt in a place "just for us".



They thought state schools would be better than prisons.



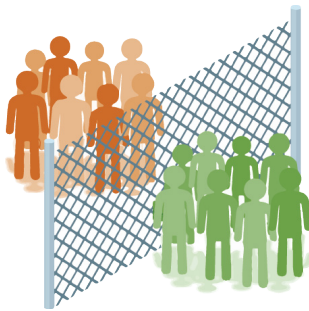
But they still were like prisons in a lot of ways.



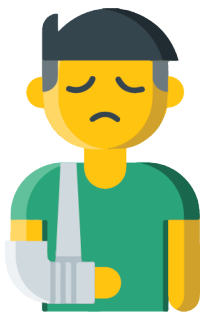
People with disabilities couldn't leave the state schools.



They didn't get to choose how they spent their time.



They didn't get to be with non-disabled people.



Soon, people with disabilities started getting hurt in state schools.



They got hit or yelled at by the school staff.



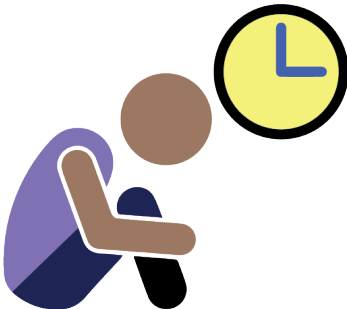
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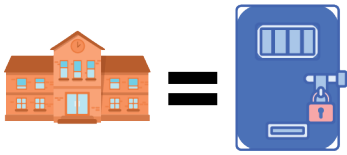
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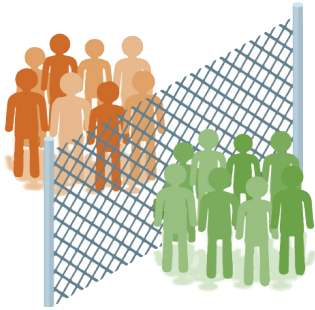
They got left alone for a long time.



They didn't get the health care they needed.



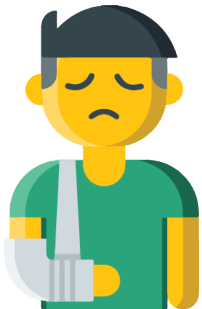
The state schools became just like prisons.



State schools kept people with disabilities separate from everyone else.



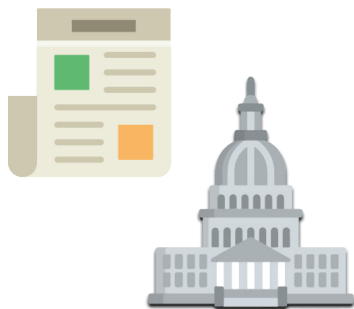
So other people didn't notice that state schools hurt people with disabilities.



They kept getting hurt.



A couple of times, someone noticed how bad state schools were.



They would let the newspaper or the government know.



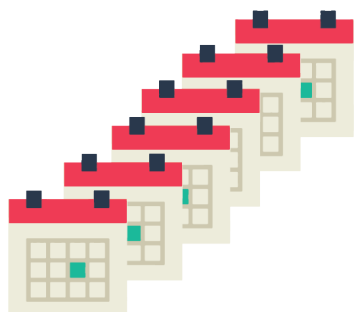
Then, the state school would stop hurting people for a little bit.



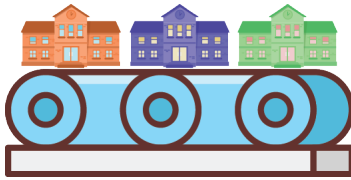
But people didn't check the state schools that much.



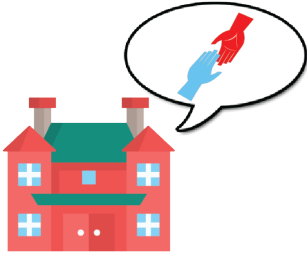
The state schools would start hurting people again after a while.



This kept happening for a long time.



New institutions kept getting made.



They said they wanted to help people with disabilities.



But they still took away our rights. They hurt us.



They were never good places to live.

When did people start trying to help us live in the community?



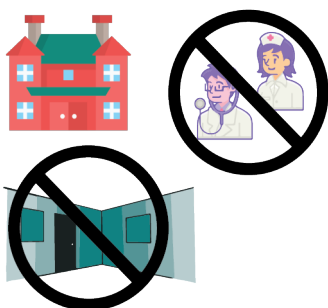
In the early 1900s, a lot more people with disabilities got put in institutions.



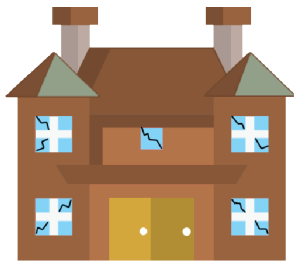
Some institutions had thousands of people in them.



But institutions didn't get more money.



They didn't hire more staff or build more rooms.



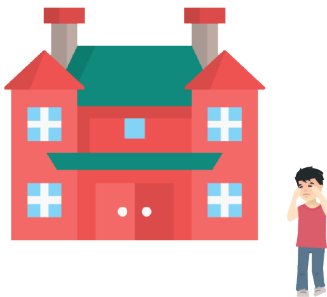
So institutions became even worse to live in.



In the mid-1900s, some parents of people with disabilities got together.



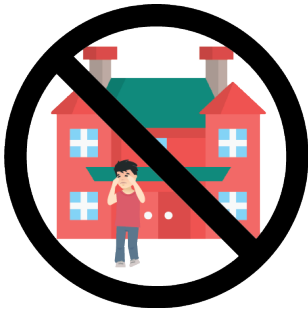
They saw how bad institutions were.



They didn't want their kids to live in institutions.



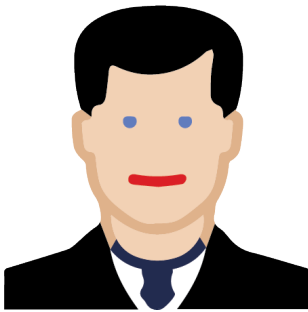
They thought their kids should get to live in the community.



They didn't put their kids in institutions.



They fought for the rights of their kids with disabilities.



John F. Kennedy was the President from 1961-1963.



He had a sister named Rosemary.



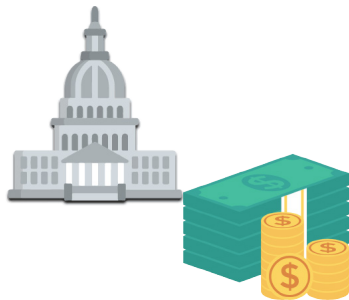
She had an intellectual disability.



He talked with the parents of kids with disabilities.



They worked together to help people with disabilities.



They made the government set aside money to help people with disabilities.



Some of this money went to institutions.



But some of it also went to helping people live in the community.



This was the first step to moving people out of institutions.



In 1972, a TV reporter visited an institution.



The institution was called Willowbrook.



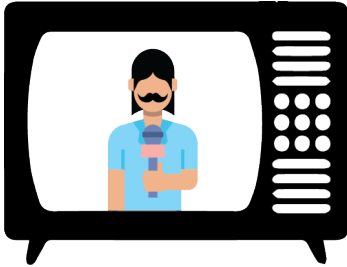
The reporter saw how bad Willowbrook was.



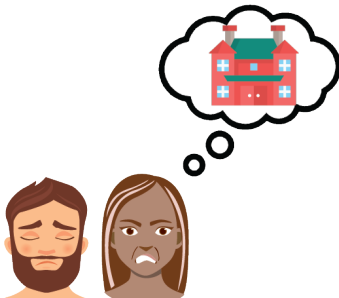
People with disabilities were crowded in small rooms.



They didn't get to eat. They got sick a lot.



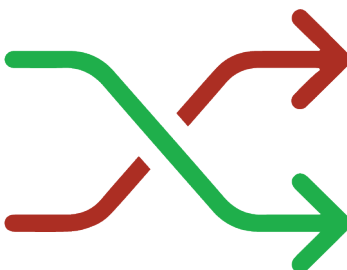
The reporter took a video of Willowbrook.
He put it on TV.



That is how lots of people learned how
bad institutions were.



It made more people want to close
institutions.



Lots of changes happened after people
learned about Willowbrook.



States started working to move people out of institutions.



They wanted more people with disabilities to live in the community.



So they started paying for LTSS in the community



Lots of rules and laws also got made about people with disabilities.



These rules try to make sure we don't get hurt in institutions.



They try to help us live in the community.

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