



Section 504

Passed by Congress in 1973, Section 504 is a single sentence in the Rehabilitation Act, a law primarily intended to fund vocational rehabilitation programs for people with disabilities. Section 504 reads: "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States...shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service." According to federal regulations enacted in 1977, state and local governments and other organizations or entities receiving federal funds are required to provide "reasonable accommodations" to persons with disabilities to enable them to participate in programs and activities under Section 504.