

## Reflection

I recently explored the “Milestones in the Development of Social Work and Social Welfare” section of the National Association of Social Workers website. The timeline detailed key historical events related to the growth and advancement of social work. After reading through this timeline, I was struck by the significant impact that a relatively small number of key figures and movements had on the profession. The timeline began in the 1800s when the profession of social work emerged due to European reform efforts. At the time, governments began recognizing that protecting children from abuse and exploitation was important, providing medical and educational resources and promoting economic reform. Over the 20th century, key figures, movements, and organizations significantly shaped the modern social work profession. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Progressive movement brought attention to social issues, inspiring organizations such as the Child Welfare League of America. The New Deal programs of the 1930s promoted government support of social services. By the 1950s, social workers were focused on the civil rights movement and addressing poverty in the U.S. During the 1960s and 70s, social work shifted its focus to mental health and community-based initiatives, such as home health care. The website also outlined more current initiatives that are shaping the current landscape of social work, including the 1997 International Association of Schools of Social Work Declaration, which called for “social work with vulnerable and oppressed populations and in settings,” and the 2018 Zero Tolerance for Family Separation policy in the U.S. In conclusion, the website demonstrated how social workers had used the tools of their trade, along with effective policies and initiatives, to respond to changing

needs of the communities they serve. I gained a better understanding of how my work is part of a greater whole and am better prepared to serve my clients and community.