

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

A Tipsheet for Local Officials

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was created by the federal government in 2012 to allow certain individuals who came to the United States as children and meet specific guidelines to request consideration to live and work in the United States for a period of two years. DACA can be renewed for an additional two years. These renewals began in 2014. Deferred action does not provide lawful status or a pathway to citizenship.

The original 2012 DACA program is still active and is not subject to the legal challenge to the President's 2014 executive action on immigration that would extend DACA eligibility and include Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA).

DACA in California

Estimated
2.6 Million
undocumented Californians

343,000
Eligible for DACA

62%
of DACA eligible have
applied

DACA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS:

- Live in both urban and rural areas,
- Represent a diverse set of countries from Latin America, Asia and beyond,
- Need educational credentials or access to adult education classes to qualify, and
- Often do not know that they are eligible.

DACA ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

- Applicants must be under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012 and have arrived in the United States before their 16th birthday;
- Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the time of applying for deferred action;

DACA ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES CONTINUED

- Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of applying for deferred action;
- Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012;
- Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States;
- Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety; and
- Pay an application fee of \$465.

Benefits of DACA to Individuals, Families and Communities

DACA recipients acquire economic benefits themselves and are increasingly becoming economic contributors to their families and communities. A survey of young adult DACA recipients indicated that:

- Approximately 61% of DACA recipients obtained a new job,
- Over 50% opened their first bank account,
- 38% obtained their first credit card, and
- 61% obtained a driver's license.

Continued Concerns for DACA Recipients

- DACA recipients live with families that include U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents and undocumented immigrants. Nearly two-thirds of DACA recipients personally know someone who has been deported.
- Although many DACA recipients have been able to access better paying jobs, a number of DACA recipients still have trouble making ends meet and getting access to education and health services.

Local Governments and the DACA Eligible Population

Provide Documentation: Local governments are the source of documents required to prove identity, continuous residency in the United States and meet educational requirements. Documents include: birth certificates, health records and school enrollment and graduation records.

Coordinate across Municipal Agencies: Local governments may designate a liaison within a jurisdiction or create inter-agency or regional networks to ensure efficient and streamlined access to documentation and accurate information for community members.

Conduct Community Outreach: Local governments may hold information sessions and public application workshops in partnership with community-based organizations and ethnic media outlets to inform potential applicants about eligibility, application requirements, how to access appropriate documentation and how to prevent immigration fraud.

Prevent Immigration Fraud: Local governments can engage community-based organizations, police departments, consumer protection agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to share information on how to prevent, identify and report immigration fraud. www.stopnotariofraud.org/

Inform State and Federal Government Agencies: Local governments can engage state and federal agencies about local implementation issues to inform future policies.

References and Resources

- [USCIS Information on Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#)
- [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) Profile: California](#)
- Gonzales, Roberto G. and Terriquez, Veronica: "How DACA is Impacting the Lives of the those who are DACAdmented," Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, University of Southern California and Immigration Policy Center, August 2013
- Singer, Audrey, Svajlenka, Prchal Nicole and Wilson, Jill H.: "[Local Insights From DACA for Implementing Future Programs for Unauthorized Immigrants](#)" (Washington: Brookings, 2015)
- [Institute for Local Government Immigrant Integration and Engagement Resources](#)