

This toolkit helps DACA recipients and impacted communities stay informed about the current status of the DACA program, highlights key resources amid a constantly shifting landscape, and offers tools to elevate the voices of DACA recipients and impacted communities and drive the message that DACA recipients strengthen the social and institutional fabric of the United States.



Note: Links and references to organizational resources do not indicate an endorsement of said resources or associated organization. Please contact each organization directly with questions.



Note: This toolkit provides a reference to resources, but it is not a replacement for legal advice. Seek legal advice about your specific case from a local immigration attorney or Board of Immigrant Appeals accredited representative.

DACA RIGHT NOW

June 18, 2020: the Supreme Court declared the Trump Administration’s 2017 attempt to terminate DACA unlawful. The Supreme Court ordered the Administration to continue accepting new DACA applications, requests for Advance Parole, and DACA renewals.

On July 28, 2020 the Department of Homeland Security released a memo declaring the agency would institute “interim” changes to the DACA program while the Trump Administration considered a renewed attempt to rescind DACA completely.

On November 14, 2020, a federal judge in New York City ruled acting secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf, assumed his position unlawfully, and as such, his limitation of DACA protections is invalidated.

On December 4, 2020, a federal judge in New York City ruled that the July 28th memo must be put aside and the government must fully reinstate the DACA program. This means that the DACA program is functioning as it was originally before the Trump Administration tried ending it in 2017. Because of ongoing litigation, the DACA program continues to be at risk and there may be a limited window of opportunity to submit a first-time DACA application or Advance Parole.



Click [here](#) to view the USCIS webpage that was updated on December 7, 2020.

HOW THIS AFFECTS ELIGIBILITY, FIRST-TIME APPLICATIONS, AND RENEWALS

Eligibility at a Glance

Currently, the Department of Homeland Security:

-  **Will** accept first-time DACA applications
-  **Note:** If you're eligible to apply as a first time-applicant, you may want to take advantage of this opportunity and apply. The DACA program is still at risk, and the window to apply may be short. Please seek legal advice about your specific case from a local immigration attorney or Board of Immigrant Appeals accredited representative before applying.
-  **Will** accept advance parole applications based on humanitarian, educational, and employment reasons.
-  **Will** continue to accept DACA renewal applications for those who have or have had DACA
-  **Note:** DHS has returned the duration of deferred action and employment authorization back to two years. If you were granted renewal of DACA for one year, your DACA and work authorization will be automatically extended to two years.

What you Need to Know about Renewal Applications

- Renewal applications are accepted, and the duration for deferred action and employment authorization has returned to two years.
- If your DACA has been expired for one year or less, you can request to renew your DACA by filling out a renewal application. If your DACA has been terminated or expired for one year or more, you can submit a first-time DACA application
- Stay consistent. Reference previous application for content but [use the most recent forms from USCIS](#): I-821D; I-765; I-765WS; G-1145. Your application will be rejected if you use old forms.
- Make a checklist of your application packet:
 - \$495 Money Order (use the [USCIS Fee Calculator](#) to confirm your amount at time of filing)
 - Cover letter (include a bulleted list of all items)
 - Completed forms: I-821D; I-765; I-765WS; G-1145 with copies of all supporting evidence
 - **Note:** Use paperclips, not staples, to combine papers
- When ready to send your application packet:
 - Check [the USCIS website for filing addresses](#)
 - Track the package. Use priority shipping with a tracking number
- To pay for your application:
- Request funds from [United We Dream's DACA Renewal Fund](#); contact the organizations listed on the directory to verify services and scholarships
- Locate local pro bono legal services using [Informed Immigrant's Legal Service Directory](#) or [Immigration Advocates Network's National Immigration Legal Services Directory](#)
- DACA beneficiaries of Mexican origin can approach their consulates for an immigration screening and individualized legal assistance. Visit [United We Dream's list of resources and Mexican](#)

[Consulates](#). You can also call 855-463-6395.



Note: It is strongly recommended to speak with an immigration attorney or a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative for an individual assessment before submitting an advance parole application, first-time DACA application, or DACA renewal application



Note: Given ongoing litigation challenging the legality of the DACA program as well as the upcoming change in presidential administration, it is important to keep up to date with the latest developments to the DACA program and eligibility. This resource will be updated regularly to best reflect ongoing changes.

Renewal Resources

- **Process pathway:** [Step-by-step DACA renewal process instructions](#) courtesy of Informed Immigrant, United We Dream and National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
- **Form completion assistance:** [Sample forms with tips for completing the various required application documents](#) provided by Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC):
- **Answers to commonly asked questions:** [Bi-lingual FAQ in Spanish and English from the ILRC and NILC](#)
- **New guidance:** [United We Dream / Home Is Here's most recent memo on DACA](#)
- United We Dream's [DACA Renewal Fund](#)
- Informed Immigrant's [guidelines on how to fund your renewal](#)

NATIONAL RESOURCES

National organizations across the country can help ensure you have the most accurate and current information to support you. There are also multiple ways to get engaged to link up with people across the country to elevate your voice and advocate for change. Below are a few examples of organizations to connect with for more resources.

Stay Current with Changes to Program:

- United We Dream and NILC offer [a regularly updated FAQ](#).
- ILRC and NILC also maintain [a regularly updated FAQ in English and Spanish](#).
- NILC provides regular [updates and analysis of changes made by the administration](#).

Access Legal Support and Know Your Rights

- [Immi](#) is dedicated to increasing access to justice for low-income immigrants. They provide free online screenings, legal information, and referrals to nonprofit legal services.
- [Immigration Law Help](#) provides an easy-to-use online directory of legal services providers, as well as the ability to search for nonprofit legal services by state, county, and detention facility—searchable by languages spoken. It is available in English and Spanish.
- [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#) provides resources that help people assert their rights and defend themselves in many situations, such as when ICE agents go to a home.

- [Immigrants Rising](#) has a vast list of resources related to law & policy; legal support; starting and growing a business; funding for higher education- scholarships and grants; improving institutional practices; and resources for allies and advocates.

Support Your Mental Wellness

- United We Dream’s [Mental Health Toolkit](#) features safe zone events and activities that can help to reduce stress in recipients’ community work and daily lives
- [Informed Immigrant’s Mental Health Toolkit](#) includes signs for recognizing anxiety and depression and resources for finding and giving emotional support
- Find support locally by entering your zip code into Informed Immigrant’s [service directory](#) to find organizations that work with immigrants and provide healthcare and mental health services
- How to Support Undocumented Students' Mental Health: [Dealing with Trauma and Anxiety](#)
- To find a health center near you, go to findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov
- To find a free or charitable clinic, go to nafclinics.org/find-clinic
- The local government of Santa Clara, CA outlines how to access mental health resources in [Mental Health Guide for Immigrants](#)
- The Los Angeles Department of Mental Health has published [multilingual materials](#) with advice on how to cope with stress and anxiety during the pandemic
- Reach out for free and confidential 24/7 support from:
 - Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
 - National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255. Spanish: 1-888-628-9454

Engage with Advocacy Organizations:

Consider reaching out to the following organizations to connect with other DACA recipients and further support outreach initiatives.

- [United We Dream / Home is Here](#)
- [Black Alliance for Just Immigration](#)
- [Immigration Equality](#)
- [UndocuBlack Network](#)
- [Informed Immigrant](#)
- [FWD.US](#)

Pinpoint Data for Advocacy Efforts

- New American Economy’s financial data on [Undocumented Immigrants & DACA-Eligible People](#)
- [Overcoming the Odds: Contributions of DACA-Eligible Immigrants to the U.S. Economy](#)
- New American Economy’s data on [DACA Eligible People in Healthcare](#)
- New American Economy’s [Spotlight on DACA-Eligible Population](#)
- Center for American Progress’s profile of [DACA recipients on frontlines of the coronavirus response](#)

ELEVATE YOUR VOICE | DIGITAL ADVOCACY TOOLS

The Cities for DACA campaign will provide multiple platforms to help you—and advocates—highlight what DACA does for your city, county, economy, and broader communities. The campaign is a multi-pronged effort that focuses on keeping both city governments informed as well as assisting community-based organizations to disseminate on-point information that may help individuals and families in their networks. Our aim is to make clear that this story isn't simply about DACA: it's about who we are as a country.

The following Cities for DACA Digital Advocacy Tools are available to help you, your families, neighbors, and local advocacy groups to take action to help protect immigrants, particularly DACA recipients, within your local jurisdictions. Please use our messaging, graphics, and guidance to stay informed about the frequently changing guidelines of the DACA program, share resources with your networks, help educate decision makers, and increase awareness about DACA amongst local elected leaders.

Share Our Videos

The Cities for DACA video series highlights the lived experiences, stories and contributions of DACA recipients throughout the country, ultimately showcasing what #DACADOES and why America needs DACA.

Cities for DACA will be sharing this series via their website: www.citiesforaction.us/citiesforDACA. We encourage you to check out the videos, comment, and share widely.

Engage on Social

Media

Follow Cities for Action:  Facebook: [@CitiesforAction](https://www.facebook.com/CitiesforAction) //  Twitter: [@CitiesforAction](https://twitter.com/CitiesforAction)

We've created a number of [community-facing social media posts](#). Please follow us, drive conversation, and share them within your networks.

Use Hashtags

Use the following hashtags when referencing Cities for DACA on social:

All things DACA:

#DACAdoes
#CitiesforDACA
#withDACA
#daca

Narrative driven:

#dacommented
#heretostay
#homeishere
#familiesbelongtogether

Write & Publish an Op-ed

Cities for Action encourages you to transform your knowledge of and concern for your city's DACA community into a compelling op-ed. By drawing upon your insights and experiences, you can help the Cities for DACA campaign reach Americans across the country.

Check out these examples:

- [Three DREAMers' Make A Powerful Case for Permanent Protections and Opportunities](#)

- [Op-Ed: What DACA has allowed me to achieve for myself and my community](#)

LOCAL RESOURCES

Locate local resources via the following methods:

- 1** Connect with a national organization and search its directories for trusted local partner organizations.
- 2** Check to see if your city or county government can connect you to local resources.
- 3** Ask local immigration attorneys to connect you to local organizations.



Cities for DACA is an initiative of Cities for Action.
For more information, visit www.citiesforaction.us.