

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

After the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on June 18, 2020, which declared the Trump Administration's 2017 attempt to terminate DACA unlawful, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released a memo on July 28, 2020 attempting to institute "interim" changes to the DACA program that sought to drastically limit the program. **However, on December 4, 2020, a federal judge in New York City ruled that the July 28th DHS memo must be put aside and the government must fully reinstate the DACA program.**

Meanwhile, there is a separate court case in which nine states led by Texas have argued that the DACA program itself was illegally created and thus must be terminated. **On July 16, 2021, the judge in this case issued a decision finding the DACA program unlawful and vacating the original DHS DACA memo from 2012 that created the program. Due to this decision, the DACA program has once again been limited.** The Department of Justice is appealing the decision, and DHS plans to issue a proposed rule concerning DACA in the near future.

Due to this decision out of Texas, the DACA program has once again been limited. If an individual has a current DACA grant on or before July 16, 2021, that grant and the attendant work authorization continues to be valid. Any current DACA recipients are able to continue renewing and applying for advance parole. However, USCIS has been ordered to stop processing or granting any initial DACA applications, which means that the DACA program is closed to those individuals who had initial applications pending or were planning on submitting an initial application.



Click [here](#) to view the current USCIS webpage for DACA that was last updated on July 19, 2021.

Executive and Legislative Actions

NOTE: Although the below developments are exciting and welcome, none of these developments have resulted in actual changes to the law yet. This means that there is no new form of relief or immigration benefit besides DACA that Dreamers can apply for currently. The political momentum built by DACA recipients and other directly impacted community members have resulted in these developments and the time is now to keep pushing on the Biden Administration and Congress to live up to their values and promises of reform.

- On his first day in office, President Biden signed a presidential memorandum directing the Attorney General and the Secretary of DHS to take all actions appropriate to preserve and fortify DACA. On March 26, 2021 DHS announced that it intends to issue a “notice of proposed rulemaking” to create a new regulation concerning the DACA program, consistent with the presidential memorandum. The rulemaking process can take several months, and no new regulation on DACA has been released yet.
- On day one of the new Presidential administration, the White House unveiled the plans for the **United States Citizenship Act**, which includes an earned pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants who pass background checks and meet other requirements. The bill would create an expedited path to citizenship for Dreamers and TPS/DED recipients, and certain farmworkers. **The bill was introduced in the House and Senate on February 18, 2021.**
- On February 4, 2021, Senators Durbin and Graham **re-introduced the Dream Act** in the Senate, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers.
- **The American Dream and Promise Act**, which would create permanent solutions for Dreamers and TPS/DED holders, **passed on a bipartisan basis in the House of Representatives on March 19, 2021.** Now, the bill must be considered and passed by the Senate and signed by the President before it can become law.
- The White House and majority leadership in Congress are planning to use the budget reconciliation process to advance COVID-19 infrastructure and recovery packages called the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan. **In the face of inaction in the Senate on legislative solutions for Dreamers and other immigrants, many advocates and elected officials have been calling on the inclusion of a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS recipients, farmworkers and other essential workers in the next budget reconciliation package.** This is seen as the best chance to enact meaningful immigration reform because the budget reconciliation process, unlike the regular legislative process, requires only 51 votes instead of 60 to pass in the Senate. However, any provision included in such a process must have implications for the federal budget. The budget resolution is the initial step in the budget reconciliation process and it instructs the relevant Congressional committees on what items to include in a budget bill. **Both the Senate and House recently passed a budget resolution that includes pathways to citizenship. Now, the relevant Congressional committees are drafting the exact language of the bill before negotiations. The passage of the bill will likely be in September or October.** We will continue to update this resource guide to provide up to date guidance.

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

Eligibility at a Glance

Currently, the Department of Homeland Security:

-  **Will NOT process first-time DACA applications.** Due to a conflicting NYC federal court case, **USCIS can still accept first-time DACA applications, but the agency cannot process or grant these requests.** If you have a yet to be cancelled biometrics appointment or pending Request for Evidence, you should consult with a trusted legal representative about still making these deadlines.
-  **Note: for those who obtained DACA on or before 7/16/2021, even if this is an individual's first DACA grant, their deferred action status and work permit will continue to be valid.**
-  **Will** continue to process and grant advance parole applications for current DACA recipients. Any time a DACA recipient wishes to travel outside the country, they should consult a trusted legal representative about potential risk.
-  **Will** continue to accept DACA renewal applications for those who have or have had DACA **until there is a court order saying otherwise.**
-  **Are those without DACA at greater risk of removal now?** : The Texas Judge's order clearly states that the court decision does "not require DHS or the Department of Justice to take any immigration, deportation, or criminal action against any DACA recipient, application, or any other individual". DHS has also made it clear that Dreamers are not a priority for enforcement actions.

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.
- USCIS encourages renewal applications to be filed between 120-150 days prior to expiration.
- USCIS will accept renewal applications before 150 days but may not process them until at the 150 day mark.
- There have been reports of delays in renewal processing at USCIS. In response, USCIS has reportedly assigned more staff to process DACA related filings.
- 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:

- If you need assistance with application fees, you may be able to 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 BIA accredited representative for an individual assessment before submitting an advance parole application or DACA renewal application.



Note: Given ongoing litigation challenging the legality of the DACA program and DHS's plans to issue a proposed rule concerning DACA in the near future, 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)
- [Steps to Take if Your DACA Renewal is Delayed](#) (Updated July 19, 2021) by the National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
- United We Dream's [Guidance for DACA Recipients and Legal Practitioners – Frequently Asked Questions](#) (published July 20, 2021)
- **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](#)
- United We Dream's **Top 5 Things to Know** in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- Application Fee Assistance:
- United We Dream's [DACA Renewal Fund](#)
- Informed Immigrant's [guidelines on how to fund your renewal](#)

ELEVATE YOUR VOICE | DIGITAL ADVOCACY TOOLS

The Cities for DACA campaign will provide multiple platforms to assist you—and advocates—highlight what DACA does for you, 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 members and 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 film series highlights the lived experiences, stories and contributions of DACA recipients throughout the country, ultimately showcasing what #DACADOES and why America needs permanent solutions for Dreamers and their families.

The Cities for DACA film series is available via the Cities for Action website: www.citiesforaction.us/citiesforDACA. We encourage you to check out the videos, comment, and share widely! This [social media toolkit](#) includes messaging to help you share the films.

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 network

Use Hashtags

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

All things DACA:

#DACAdoes
#CitiesforDACA

Narrative driven:

#wearehome
#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 lived experiences, you can help the Cities for DACA campaign reach folks across the country.

Check out these examples:

- [“For LGBTQ Dreamers, no equality without citizenship”](#)
- [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](#)

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](#)

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.