



## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Update for Educators - March 2015

Have undocumented students ever approached you for help with planning their futures? If so, encourage them to find out whether they are eligible to apply for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

The DACA program gives undocumented individuals permission to live and work in the United States for two\* years, and can subsequently be renewed.

The program is overseen by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Read more about DACA at:

[uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals](http://uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals).

\* The validity period will change to 3 years once the Expanded DACA program announced on Nov 20, 2014 is implemented.

Visit [cliniclegal.org/educators-back-school-toolkit](http://cliniclegal.org/educators-back-school-toolkit) for more resources for educators!

## Additional Resources and Legal Assistance

Visit [cliniclegal.org/adminrelief](http://cliniclegal.org/adminrelief). The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. is a non-profit organization that protects the rights of immigrants in partnership with a dedicated network of Catholic and community legal immigration programs.

Visit [weownthedream.org](http://weownthedream.org). Own the DREAM is a national campaign to assist undocumented individuals brought to the U.S. as children.

## What Are the Benefits of DACA?

- May apply for work permit valid for two years (may be renewed) and social security number.
- In almost every state, may apply for driver's license.
- Will be considered lawfully present in the U.S.
- May apply for permission to travel outside the U.S. for humanitarian, employment, or educational reasons.

## DACA Eligibility Guidelines

- Came to U.S. under the age of 16 and at least 15 years old at the time of filing;
- Physically present in U.S. on June 15, 2012;
- Had no lawful immigration status on June 15, 2012;
- Currently in school (includes career training and GED programs), graduated from high school, obtained GED, or honorably discharged veteran;
- Not subject to any criminal bars and not a threat to national security or public safety;
- Continuous residence in U.S. since June 15, 2007 (NOTE: Under expanded DACA, applicants will only need to have resided in the U.S. since Jan 1, 2010); AND
- Under 31 years old on June 15, 2012 (NOTE: Under expanded DACA there will not be any upper age limit).

## Recent DACA Updates

- Since DACA launched in August 2012, approximately 727,000 individuals have applied (and nearly 639,000 have been approved). Many of the 2.1 million individuals in the U.S. estimated to be eligible for DACA have not yet applied.
- In November of 2014, President Obama announced an expansion to the DACA program to include people who came to the U.S. before turning 16 (no matter what age they are now) who have been present since January 1, 2010. As a result, several hundred thousand more people may be eligible to apply. Implementation of the expanded DACA program has been temporarily delayed due to an injunction by a district court in Texas. For up-to-date details, visit: [cliniclegal.org/resources/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals](http://cliniclegal.org/resources/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals)
- Individuals may "age in" to DACA by reaching their 15th birthdays. Those not old enough to apply initially may be eligible to apply now.
- Individuals may become eligible to apply for DACA by enrolling in literacy, GED, career training, or vocational training programs.
- Those eligible should take advantage of DACA now. Comprehensive Immigration Reform is not yet a reality. DACA is a benefit that is available now.



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