

DACA

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Go to www.aila.org/deferredaction for the latest information

Main Talking Points

- On June 15, 2012 the Department of Homeland Security formally announced that it will offer deferred action to "DREAMers." For all the promising undocumented youth who call America home, this represents the opportunity to come out of the shadows and fully embrace the only country they know.
- Beginning August 15, 2012 certain undocumented youth will be able to apply for deferred action by submitting three forms released by USCIS: [I-821D](#), Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, [I-765](#), Application for Employment Authorization, and the [I-765 Worksheet](#); and by paying a \$465 application fee.
- The DACA process appears to be fairly straightforward for most; however issues surrounding the process are not. Each person will, in essence, be revealing him or herself to the government. While DHS has offered some level of assurance regarding confidentiality, those assurances are necessarily weak. Speaking with an immigration attorney before applying is the smart, safe way to go.
- Because of the complexity of immigration law as a whole, even the simplest process can be fraught with pitfalls. AILA and the immigration lawyer community are rallying to mobilize unprecedented pro bono activity surrounding the DACA initiative.
- DREAMers, like all Americans, are united by a deep respect for those who work hard for a living and a shared commitment to the country we all call home. These young people study in our schools, play in our neighborhoods, and pledge allegiance to our flag. They are Americans in their hearts, in their minds, in every single way but on paper. They were brought to this country by their parents—sometimes even as infants—and yet they live under the threat of deportation to a country they may know nothing about.
- This temporary reprieve for DREAMers gives Congress the space to reach a consensus by taking the immediate threat of deportation off the table. Deferred action is **not** amnesty. Deferred action is **not** permanent. Deferred action is **not** a pathway to a green card or citizenship. Deferred action is **not** legal status. Youth that qualify cannot vote or petition for family members.
- Under current law people granted deferred action are eligible to apply for work authorization. While living in the United States people must have a way to support themselves—this is not a change in current law.

Additional Resources

- [AILA Resource Page on Deferred Action](#)
- [USCIS Frequently Asked Questions on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#) (updated August 14th)
- [Original June 15th Secretary Napolitano Memo](#)
- [Who and Where the DREAMers Are from the Immigration Policy Center](#)
- [We Own the Dream Event Listings in Your Area](#)

For more information or questions please contact AILA Grassroots
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