



DACA Resources

DACA: What You Need to Know

DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, was established by the Obama Administration in 2012 to prevent deportation of eligible undocumented immigrant youth who were brought illegally to the United States as children. According to current estimates, roughly 800,000 people are covered under DACA. The policy allows those eligible to live, study and work freely in the United States as long as their registration remains current.

Who's eligible?

People born on or after June 16, 1981, who came to the U.S. before the age of 16 and who:

- Don't have lawful immigration status
- Have lived continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007
- Were physically present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012, when the policy was enacted
- Are at least 15 years old
- Are currently in school or are a graduate of high school or GED recipient or are an honorably discharged military veteran
- Have a clean criminal record and have passed a background check

Those enrolled in the program must re-register every two years and pay a fee of \$495 each time. After enrollment, they have access to work permits, can apply for Social Security Numbers and are given protection from deportation.

What's changed?

On Sept. 5, 2017, President Donald Trump ordered an end to the program and urged Congress to pass a replacement. Without Congressional action, the program ends in 6 months, meaning that those covered by DACA would lose protection from deportation and other benefits provided by the program once their registrations expire.

Since the announcement, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service has stopped accepting first-time applications for DACA. Some renewals are still being processed and lost or stolen documents can be replaced. According to the National Immigration Law Center, the following provisions apply to those covered under DACA:

- DACA and work permits remain valid until their expiration date.
- DACA issuances and work permits that expire between now and the end of the program, March 5, 2018, must be submitted for renewal by October 5, 2017. Documents that expire after March 5, 2018, are no longer eligible for renewal.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will no longer grant DACA recipients permission to travel abroad through advance parole. Any pending applications for advance parole will not be processed.

What Happens When DACA Benefits Expire

According to the Department of Homeland Security, current law does not grant legal status to those covered under DACA: "Recipients of DACA are currently unlawfully present in the U.S. with their removal deferred. When their period of deferred action expires or is terminated, their removal will no longer be deferred and they will no longer be eligible for lawful employment. Only Congress has the authority to amend the existing immigration laws."

Lawsuit Challenges DACA Repeal

The day after the DACA repeal announcement, fifteen U.S. states and the District of Columbia sued the Trump administration to challenge the program's termination. In addition to the District of Columbia, the lawsuit was filed on behalf of Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

Resources

- National Immigration Law Center: nilc.org
- United We Dream: unitedwedream.org
- Department of Homeland Security: DHS.gov

Contact us anytime for confidential assistance.

DACA: Frequently Asked Questions

The following information is excerpted from the National Immigration Law Center website at nilc.org. and addresses general questions concerning those currently registered in the DACA program.

Daca Validity and Applications

Is my DACA still valid?

Your DACA is valid until it expires. DACA and work permits (employment authorization documents, or EADs) will remain valid until their expiration date. To determine when your DACA and work permit expire, look at your I-795 Approval Notice and the bottom of your EAD.

I don't have DACA. If I am eligible, can I still apply?

No new DACA applications will be accepted. USCIS no longer will accept first-time applications after September 5, 2017.

I submitted my DACA application for the first time already. What will happen to my application?

If your application has been received and accepted by USCIS before September 5, it will be processed accordingly. It is unclear if applications received in the lockbox but for which a receipt notice has not been issued will be adjudicated by USCIS.

My DACA is expiring soon. Can I renew it?

If you have DACA and your DACA expires between now and March 5, 2018, you can submit your application for a two-year renewal by October 5, 2017. After October 5, 2017, USCIS will no longer accept any renewal applications. If your DACA expires March 6, 2018, or later, you will not be able to apply for renewal.

I submitted my DACA renewal application already. What will happen to my application?

If your application is currently pending, it will be adjudicated according to USCIS. It is unclear if applications received by USCIS without having sent a receipt notice to you will be processed.

If my DACA doesn't expire until after March 5, 2018, can I still apply for renewal?

Unfortunately, USCIS has said that they will not accept or process a renewal application submitted after September 5 if the person's DACA expiration date is March 6 or later. For example, if your DACA expires on December 7, 2018, and you do not have a renewal request pending, you cannot apply for DACA renewal.

Finances

How should I prepare?

As you continue to plan your financial future, we recommend that you remember to do the following:

- Enlist someone at your job who can pick up your paycheck.
- Have a list of banks and opened accounts.
- Have a list of all utilities/bills.
- Enroll someone in your bank account who can deposit, withdraw, or potentially close your bank account.
- Start a savings account.
- Have someone listed on your utility bills who can close accounts and collect deposits.
- Add someone to your lease who can terminate it if need be and collect deposits.
- Add someone to your mortgage who can continue making payments on your mortgage, close it, or sell your property for you.
- Add someone to your car lease who can continue payments, terminate purchase, or sell your vehicle for you.
- Begin a savings plan immediately even if it's not much, at least for each month. It might come in handy later.

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Taxes

What will happen to my Social Security number?

Once you receive a Social Security number (SSN) from the Social Security Administration, you must use your SSN for tax filing purposes and discontinue use of an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) if you had previously been issued one. If your work authorization is rescinded, your SSN remains valid for tax purposes, so you should continue to use your SSN for that purpose.

Note that this applies only to a valid SSN that has been assigned to you. You are required to file all your taxes under that single SSN going forward. It is important not to present false information on tax forms—such as filing the return with an SSN that was not assigned to you—as this could affect your immigration case in the future.

If you have questions about tax filing, you can visit a local tax clinic. In general, if you earn less than \$54,000 a year, you are eligible for free services at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. You can find a local VITA site here: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers>.

Driver's License

What happens to my driver's license when my DACA is terminated or my work permit expires?

Driver's license rules, including eligibility and document requirements and procedures for renewing a license, vary from state to state. All 50 states allow DACA grantees to get a driver's license if they are otherwise eligible. In most states, a driver's license expires when the deferred action grant or work authorization document expires. Depending on the state's rules, you may need to show new proof that you are lawfully present in the U.S. or have a specific immigration status (other than DACA) when you renew your license.

Twelve states (CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, MD, NV, NM, UT, VT, WA), the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico issue driver's licenses to eligible residents, regardless of their immigration status. About 44 percent of DACA recipients live in a state that issues driver's licenses to eligible state residents regardless of their immigration status. These states issue at least two types of licenses: a REAL ID license that is acceptable for certain federal purposes, and a non-REAL ID license that cannot be used for these purposes. If you have a REAL ID license from one of these states, you will likely need to apply for a non-REAL ID license when your current license expires. If you already have a non-REAL ID license, you may be able to keep/renew your current license.

You will need to check with your state's department of motor vehicles for the specific requirements in your state.

Employment

What does this decision mean for my ability to work?

Since the Trump administration is not immediately ending any current grants of DACA or work permits, your employer should not ask to verify your work permit again until your current expiration date. At that time, if you qualified for and timely renewed your DACA and work permit or obtained a work permit on another basis, you will need to present your new work permit to your employer to show that you continue to have authorization to work.

If you no longer have a valid work permit, your employer will most likely lay you off when your current work authorization expires, since you will no longer have legal authorization to work. In some situations, you may be able to negotiate with your employer to be placed on a leave of absence until you can show you are authorized to work again; however, your employer is not obligated to agree to this.

Source: National Immigration Law Center: nilc.org

Resources

- United We Dream: unitedwedream.org
- Department of Homeland Security: DHS.gov

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Resilience in Stressful Times

Of the many factors that go into navigating change, whether personal or work-related, the most important may be resiliency. Resilience is the measure of our ability to welcome challenges, overcome adversity and get back on track to achieving our goals.

What is resilience?

Resilience is more than coping; it's about confronting difficult situations and rising to challenges without getting overwhelmed by them. Resilient people are better able to handle life's stressors and to adapt to changing situations. Being resilient can help protect you from depression, stress and anxiety, too.

Some of the characteristics of resilient people include:

- Strong relationships
- Self-motivation
- A positive view of yourself and confidence in your strengths and abilities
- Skills in communication and problem solving
- Self-awareness
- Emotional control

Becoming More Resilient

Resilience can be strengthened and nurtured by improving self-esteem, developing a strong system of social support and taking care of your physical and mental health. If you feel lacking in resiliency, stressed or even nearing burnout, keep the following things in mind:

- **Scale back:** While it may seem easier said than done, take a close look at your daily, weekly and monthly schedule and find meetings, activities, dinners or chores that you can cut back on or delegate to someone else. If news reports or social media posts are contributing to your stress, try turning off the TV and the Internet until you feel better able to deal.
- **Prepare:** If you are feeling edgy already, try to stay ahead of additional stress by preparing for meetings or trips, scheduling your time better, and setting realistic goals for tasks both big and small. Stress mounts when you run short on time, so build a cushion into your schedule for traffic jams or slow public transportation, for example.
- **Reach out:** Make or renew connections with others. Surrounding yourself with supportive family, friends, co-workers, or clergy and spiritual leaders can have a positive effect on your mental well-being and your ability to cope. Volunteer in your community.
- **Relax:** Physical activity, meditation, yoga, massage and other relaxation techniques can help you manage stress. It doesn't matter which technique you choose. What matters is refocusing your attention to something calming and increasing awareness of your body.
- **Get enough sleep:** Lack of sleep affects your immune system and your judgment and makes you more likely to snap over minor irritations. Most people need seven to eight hours a day.
- **Avoid alcohol and caffeine:** While momentarily calming, both can contribute to stress and anxiety.
- **Maintain strong connections with family and friends:** Having strong, positive relationships with others provides a cushion of acceptance and support that can help you weather tough times.
- **Avoid viewing problems as insurmountable:** You have probably handled and survived difficult situations in the past. Learn from these past experiences and be confident that you will get through a current crisis, too.
- **Accept that change is part of living:** The reality is that certain things cannot be controlled. What's important is how you respond to the situation. Accepting the change makes it easier to move forward with your life.
- **Keep a long-term perspective and hopeful outlook:** Even though your feelings may be overwhelming at times, try to stay positive. Set goals for yourself so that you can feel productive and purposeful every day, and create longer-term goals so that you have a direction for your future.
- **Get professional help:** If your stress management efforts aren't helpful enough, see your doctor or contact your Employee Assistance Program. Chronic, uncontrolled stress can lead to a variety of potentially serious health problems, including depression and pain.

[Contact us anytime for confidential assistance.](#)

You're Not Alone

When uncertainty about the future threatens to overwhelm you, your GuidanceResources Program can help. Our GuidanceConsultantsSM are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, over the phone or online. They can put you in touch with the tools, information and local professionals you need. The help is immediate, confidential and available to you at no cost. Contact us anytime for:



Confidential Counseling

The EAP offers short-term counseling services for you and your dependents to help handle concerns constructively and to stay on track. Call anytime about:

- Marital, relationship or family problems
- Stress, anxiety or depression
- Job pressures or substance abuse
- Help navigating change



Legal Support

With GuidanceResources, you have an attorney on call. Talk to an expert for guidance about:

- Immigration or work status issues
- Debt or bankruptcy
- Landlord or tenant issues
- Civil or criminal actions

If you require representation, we can refer you to a qualified attorney in your area for a free 30-minute consultation and a 25 percent reduction in customary legal fees thereafter.



Financial Information

Everyone has financial questions. With GuidanceResources, you can get answers. Talk to an on-staff CPA or Certified Financial Planner about:

- Budgeting during uncertain times
- Debt management or tax issues
- Starting a savings plan



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