

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Background & Talking Points

What is DACA?

President Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in 2012 through an executive order. The program was meant to help young undocumented immigrants, who arrived in the U.S. by age 16 and lived continuously in the country since June 15, 2007, obtain a temporary work permit as well as a two-year stay of deportation proceedings.

Who is protected by DACA?

Approximately 800,000 people brought illegally to the United States as children are protected by DACA. They are often called Dreamers.

What is the Dreamers' status now?

On September 5, 2017, the Trump administration announced its [decision to end DACA](#) effective March 5, 2018, and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began [DACA's phase out](#). DACA benefits are provided on a two-year basis, so individuals who currently have DACA will retain both DACA and their work authorizations until they expire. DHS will provide a limited, six-month window during which it will consider certain requests for DACA and applications for work authorization. Initial requests for DACA will no longer be accepted or considered.

Why do some people want to keep DACA?

A [national survey](#) of 1,308 DACA recipients conducted last fall by three advocacy organizations found that 95 percent were currently working or in school, 54 percent had bought their first car, and nearly half got a job with better working conditions.

A comprehensive [report](#) published this summer by the liberal think tank Center for American Progress looked at the impact DACA had on hundreds of recipients. The Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, recently [estimated](#) the cost of ending DACA for businesses at \$6.3 billion in spending associated with employee turnover, recruiting, training, and hiring 720,000 new employees.

Is there legislation in Congress to protect Dreamers?

A number of bills similar to DACA have been introduced in the Senate, including the [Dream Act \(S. 1615\)](#). The [BRIDGE Act \(S. 128\)](#) could also provide temporary relief for Dreamers until Congress passes a permanent solution. In the House of Representatives, the [American Hope Act \(H.R. 3591\)](#) provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers.

Why does DACA matter to children's museums?

People who were eligible for DACA protections were at least 15 years old and younger than 31 as of June 15, 2012. This includes people who may be employed or interning at a children's museum. Some adult visitors to children's museums may have received protection under DACA.

How can I show my support of DACA?

1. Contact your Member of Congress and ask to speak with the staff member in charge of immigration policy. ([Find your Senators and Representative here.](#)) Here is a sample script:

My name is _____, and I am one of your constituents. I disagree with the White House's decision to end DACA and ask Senator/Representative _____ to support legislative that protects immigrants affected by the termination of DACA. More than 800,000 people will be affected, and I am asking Congress to pass legislation that provides a pathway to citizenship for this group of immigrants. Does Senator/Representative _____ currently support the Dream Act (Senate)/Hope Act (House of Representatives)?

If you are told your Senator/ Representative supports either the Dream (in the Senate) or Hope Act (in the House of Representatives), thank them for their support.

If you are told your Senator/ Representative does not support either the Dream Act (Senate)/Hope Act (House), ask the staffer to explain why. Then, let the staffer know the human and economic impact that leaving 800,000 youth undocumented: The 800,000 DACA beneficiaries pay taxes, attend colleges and universities, and contribute to communities as doctors, lawyers, teachers, social workers, and business owners. Eliminating DACA could reduce the U.S. GDP by more than \$400 billion over the next decade.

If you are told your Senator/ Representative has not made up his or her mind on the Dream or Hope Act, let the staffer know you urge Congress to support these this legislation.

You can use the resources at dreamacttoolkit.org to call and tweet to urge specific members of Congress to stand up for Dreamers. The toolkit was developed by the Center for American Progress Action Fund, an independent, nonpartisan policy institute and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of all Americans, through bold, progressive ideas.

2. Attend a rally: You can locate rallies in your area using [Resistance Near Me](#).
3. Show your support online: Raise your voice to support the [#DreamAct](#) by tweeting and posting your support for young immigrants. Make it clear that they are [#HereToStay](#). Sample Tweets:
 - 800,000+ dreamers are in our workforce. Ending #DACA not only disrupts their lives but also their employers, coworkers, patients & more.
 - Decision against Dreamers is not the end for immigrants. Congress must do right by them: pass the Dream Act. #HeretoStay
 - Over its 5 year history, DACA has helped nearly 800,000 young people pursue higher ed, earn better wages, buy homes and more. #DefendDACA
 - DREAMers are: students, teachers, doctors, small-business professionals & more. They are integral to our communities & economies #DefendDACA
 - Ending DACA = loss of \$460.3 billion from GDP over 10 years and the removal of 685,000 workers from the economy. #DefendDACA
 - 8 in 10 voters support allowing DREAMers to remain in U.S. https://morningconsult.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/170409_crosstabs_Politico_v1_AG-2.pdf #DefendDACA
 - Young immigrants who have long call America their home don't deserve to be stripped of their legal status #DefendDACA