

DEFEND DREAMERS

In September 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Trump administration would end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which allowed nearly 700,000 young migrants who were brought to the United States as children to stay in the country. After putting their trust in the government, these “Dreamers” now face an uncertain future as Congress decides their fate.

9 FACTS ABOUT DACA:

1. DACA applicants must meet strict requirements in order to qualify.

DACA recipients must:

Have arrived in the United States prior to age 16

Have continuously resided in the United States without legal status since June 15, 2007

Be younger than age 31 as of June 15, 2012 and at least age 15 at application (unauthorized immigrants under 15 but in removal proceedings are also eligible to apply)

Be currently enrolled in school, have graduated high school or obtained a general development certificate (GED), or be an honorably discharged veteran

Have not been convicted of a felony or multiple or serious misdemeanors and not pose a threat to national security or public safety

2. DACA recipients paid over \$420 million in fees in order to enter the program. This includes filing fees and fees for biometric services such as fingerprints and photos.

3. More than 80 percent of Dreamers were brought to the U.S. by parents from Mexico and Central America.

Many of these families were fleeing violence and seeking a better future.

4. Most Dreamers are unfamiliar with their country of origin.
According to a study by the Brookings Institute, nearly one-third of DACA recipients were aged five or younger at the time of arrival, and almost three-quarters have lived in the U.S. for over ten years.

5. Ending DACA would tear apart thousands of families.
According to a national survey of DACA recipients conducted by the United We Dream network, almost 25 percent reported being a parent to a U.S. citizen child.

6. DACA has allowed many of these young adults to become participants in the economy.
DACA recipients reported that they have been able to get new and higher paying jobs, buy their first car, purchase health insurance, and pursue educational opportunities.

7. DACA recipients are not taking jobs away from U.S.-born workers.
DACA recipients represent less than one percent of the workforce aged 16-31, which according to a Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis makes them unlikely to cause widespread displacement in the labor market.

8. A majority of Americans support allowing Dreamers to stay in the U.S. and apply for citizenship.
According to a poll conducted in January 2018, 75 percent of voters support allowing DACA recipients to remain, including over half of Republican voters. Of the respondents, over 50 percent supported a path to citizenship for Dreamers.

9. Without legislative action from Congress, Dreamers face an uncertain future.
According to MPI, 915 DACA recipients will be excluded from the program daily starting in March 2018. Between January and March 2019, 50,000 people a month will lose DACA status.

Portrait of a DACA recipient*

