

YWCA USA Special Policy Update

September 6, 2017

Yesterday, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, on behalf of the Trump Administration, announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA is a program created through executive order by President Obama in 2012 to allow young undocumented immigrants who were brought to this country as children, commonly known as DREAMers, to live in the country for a renewable two-year period. During this period, DREAMers are protected from deportation, and eligible for a work permit. To date, over 800,000 individuals have been protected by the program.

The decision to end DACA follows threats from 9 state Attorneys General to file a lawsuit against the president challenging the legality of DACA if it was not revoked by September 5th. Attorney General Sessions, in his remarks yesterday, claimed that the program is unconstitutional as created through executive order and challenged Congress to address the issue in their body. We recognize that this is not about the constitution. This is about xenophobia. This is about race. Per, the Center for American Progress, roughly 97% of DACA recipients identify as people of color (Latinx, Black or Asian/Pacific Islander).ⁱ

As the DACA program begins to roll down, the Department of Homeland Security will no longer accept any new DACA applications submitted after Tuesday, September 5 and immigrants currently enrolled in the program will be permitted to remain in the United States to continue with deferred action until their two-year work permits expire. Immigrants with permits expiring between September 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018 can seek a final two-year renewal if the application is submitted by October 5, 2017. Any DREAMer whose work permit expires after March 5 will be ineligible for further extensions and subject to deportation.

The immigrant youth and pro-DACA community is urging Congress to pass a clean, bipartisan, bicameral version of the [DREAM Act](#) immediately, which would give DREAMers the chance to become full, legal U.S. citizens. While other bills have been floated around as options for protecting DREAMers, the community feels that the DREAM Act is the only legislation that guarantees DREAMers the ability to stay permanently in the United States.

YWCA USA continues to see the ending of DACA as racial profiling, xenophobia, and bad policy that disproportionately harms communities of color. Following the announcement, YWCA USA issued a [statement](#) in support of DREAMers and DACA recipients.

Please see below for additional resources on DACA, as well as actions your organization can take as we continue to fight to protect immigrant youth.

NEWS COVERAGE

[Trump administration announces end of immigration protection program for ‘dreamers’](#) [The Washington Post]

[Trump ends DACA—and pressures Congress to pass immigration reform](#) [Politico]

[Trump Moves to End DACA and Calls on Congress to Act](#) [The New York Times]

[Here's How Congress Could Act to Save DACA](#) [NPR]

STATISTICS

- [Center for American Progress \(CAP\) state-by-state fact sheets on DACA](#) -
- Migration Policy Institute (MPI) [DACA recipients by county](#) (Excel spreadsheet download, see “county” tab)

RESOURCES

- [National Immigration Law Center's \(NILC's\) Side by Side](#): DACA and related 2017 Legislation including DACA, the Dream Act, BRIDGE Act, and RAC Act
- [Here to Stay/United We Dream website](#)
For advocates, resources such as important information about this announcement, FAQs on DACA termination and Recission and Workplace Rights, links to a Mental Health Emergency Toolkit and Mental Health Resources for DREAMers, and ways to take action
- [Immigrant Legal Resource Center Community Advisory for DACA Recipients](#) provides details for DACA recipients, those with pending applications, those who need to renew their DACA, and more
- [Informed Immigrant FAQs](#): Updated Guidance for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipients
- American Immigration Council [Practice Advisory](#) for attorneys without significant training on immigration law on screening for immigration relief beyond DACA
- Know Your Rights [materials](#) to protect and prepare individuals against immigration raids
- For educators, Stanford Law School and the California Charter Schools Association have [published a guide](#) on legal obligations to provide education to undocumented students and actions schools can take to protect the educational rights of undocumented children. Data privacy protections and help schools can offer if a caretaker is detained are among the areas covered.

ACT NOW

Now is the time to raise our voices in opposition to the ending of the DACA program and to urge Congress to take immediate action by passing the bipartisan Dream Act of 2017 to protect immigrant youth.

1. [Call Your Member of Congress](#) and urge them to support immediate passage of the DREAM Act
2. Issue press statements, tweets, and other social media reactions
 - a. The administration's ending of DACA puts immigrant youth, especially young women of color, at risk. It's racial profiling, xenophobia and bad public policy
 - b. Call on Congress to take immediate action to pass the bipartisan Dream Act of 2017, which would protect immigrant youth from deportation

Hashtags: #DefendDREAMers, #ProtectDREAMers, #DefendDACA, #DreamAct, #DACA, #HereToStay

3. [Attend an Event Near You](#)

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ⁱ See Center for American Progress [2017 National DACA Study](#)