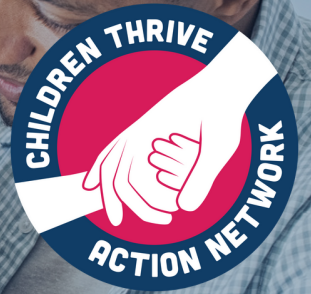


Kids and Families Need a Path to Citizenship for DACA Recipients and Undocumented Youth



What is DACA and why is it important?

In 2012, President Obama created the [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) program](#) through executive action. DACA provides temporary, renewable legal status, work authorization, and relief from deportation for a select group of non-citizens who were brought to the U.S. as children. Over the past ten years, the DACA program has changed the lives of nearly [800,000](#) recipients and their families by removing the threat of family separation and improving their economic security.

What is the current status of DACA?

Recent court rulings have barred new DACA applications, although current recipients can still renew their status. The DACA program in its entirety, however, is facing its end; it has already been ruled unlawful and is unlikely to receive a favorable decision if it reaches the Supreme Court. Only [a quarter of this year's estimated 100,000 undocumented high school graduates](#) were DACA-eligible, representing the first time the overwhelming majority of undocumented high school graduates were ineligible to apply to the program. The program has also left out thousands of young people since its inception due to its narrow eligibility criteria, such as age, date of entry, and educational requirements.

What would the end of DACA mean?

Over [600,000](#) current DACA recipients who have grown up, built careers, and raised families in the U.S. would become undocumented, losing their ability to work and, in some cases, to pursue their education. 1.3 million people who live with a DACA recipient would be impacted, including [300,000](#) U.S. citizen children with parents who have DACA status. These children are at risk of losing a parent to detention or deportation with the end of DACA.



Health impact

Without DACA, the program's positive impacts, like [decreased stress](#) and improvements in [mental](#) and [physical](#) health among recipients, would likely be reversed. The positive impacts of the program on their children's health would also be lost, as research demonstrates that children of DACA recipients [have better mental health outcomes](#) and children of DACA-eligible mothers have [improved birth outcomes](#). Furthermore, separation from a parent due to deportation or even the fear of losing a parent [has serious negative short and long-term consequences for children](#), affecting their brain development, behavior, and mental and physical health. DACA recipients are already suffering since DACA has been at risk; recipients have reported feelings of [sadness, despair, anxiety, and even instances of self-harm and attempted suicide](#).

Educational outcomes

DACA reduced the gap in high school attendance and graduation between citizens and non-citizens by [40 percent](#). **With the end of DACA, the number of children who do not attend or finish high school would increase.** Moreover, the [181,000 DACA-eligible students](#) enrolled in postsecondary education may face challenges in completing their degrees. A number of DACA recipients reported [withdrawing from higher education](#) in anticipation of being deported. DACA's end would further prevent students from pursuing their education, thereby limiting their capacity to provide for themselves and their families.



Economic impact

DACA decreased the likelihood of recipient households living in poverty by [38 percent](#). With the loss of DACA, the increased risk of poverty will be [harmful](#) for young children's development and long-term educational and health outcomes. **The end of DACA would mean over 1,200 people would lose work authorization every day.** This includes [over 300,000](#) DACA recipients employed in essential jobs. In fact, the prospect of losing DACA is leading to [increased reluctance](#) among recipients to pursue their career goals. The U.S. workforce shortage would be intensified if DACA were to end, affecting industries already facing labor shortages, such as medical professionals and teachers.



WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Pass a path to citizenship for DACA recipients and undocumented youth and young adults.

A path to citizenship would protect [2.3 million people](#) who entered the U.S. as minors and at least [750,000](#) of their U.S. citizen children. Moreover, a path to citizenship has broad bipartisan support: [74%](#) of all Americans favor providing permanent protections for undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children.

DACA recipients and their families should not be forced to live their lives according to the whims of the courts. Undocumented youth who call this country home should not continue to face an uncertain future. **DACA was never meant to be a permanent solution. Every day Congress delays taking action is a day too long. The time for action is now.**