

# Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) FAQ



*A woman carries a sign supporting immigrants during a rally demanding the Trump administration protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in Washington, D.C. Photo by Reuters*

## What is DACA?

A Department of Homeland Security policy that allowed certain young individuals to request a renewable two-year reprieve from deportation while allowing them to work in the U.S.

## How did DACA come about?

President Obama announced the DACA program on June 15, 2012 in response to repeated failures by Congress to create a permanent path to legal status for people who came to the U.S. as children.

## Is this the same as the DREAM Act?

DACA and the DREAM Act are not the same thing, however, DACA recipients are often referred to as "Dreamers." DACA was a temporary work authorization, that had to be renewed every two years and required very specific conditions be met in order to receive the benefits of the policy. The DREAM Act, if passed, allows certain immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children and are in college or serving in the military, to gain legal status and qualify for citizenship.

## Who qualified for DACA?

Those who came to the U.S. before turning 16, continuously resided in the U.S. since June 15, 2007, was under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012, was undocumented as of June 15, 2012 and had not left the country since, had not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor or three or more misdemeanors, and was currently in school, has a high school diploma or GED, or was honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or U.S. armed forces.

## How many people qualified for DACA?

More than 788,000 people have been approved to participate in the DACA program, but as many as 1.9 million were eligible.

## Where do DACA recipients come from and where do they live?

Since 2012, the top five countries of origin of DACA applicants are Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru. The top five states DACA recipients live in are California (424,995), Texas (234,350), New York (95,663), Illinois (79,415), and Florida (74,321).

## What's happening now?

On September 5, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the repeal of the DACA program and said President Trump would give Congress six months to come up with a replacement. Those whose DACA work permits expire between now and March 5, 2018 - the end of the six-month period - have until October 5 to apply for a renewal. The Department of Homeland Security is not accepting any submissions from new applicants.