



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

What is DACA?

Deferred Action is a policy designed to stop the deportation of certain individuals on a case by case basis. Along with temporary protection from deportation, eligible youth will receive a temporary social security number and permission to work in the United States. Both must be renewed every two years. Eligible youth who are in deportation proceedings can also apply provided that they meet the requirements. If they qualify, DHS will close their deportation proceedings and allow them to apply for work authorization. It is important to remember that this is neither the DREAM Act nor an executive order and does not provide a pathway to citizenship.

Age Requirements

- ⇒ Must be under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
- ⇒ Must have arrived to the U.S. before the age of 16
- ⇒ If not in removal proceedings, must be at least 15 years old in order to apply

Continuous Presence

- ⇒ Must have lived in the U.S. continuously for five consecutive years as of the June 15, 2012
- ⇒ Must have been present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012

Good Moral Character

- ⇒ Must not have been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, or three or more misdemeanor offenses not occurring on the same date and not arising out of the same act, omission, or scheme of misconduct
- ⇒ Must not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety

Education

- ⇒ Must currently be in school, or have graduated from high school, or have obtained a GED certificate, or be an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the U.S.

What is the process?

The completed forms (available at USCIS.gov) and necessary documents should be mailed to USCIS. The entire process, including biometric and biographical background checks, will take from 2 to 6 months after submission. The fees will total \$465 but fee waivers are available for extreme cases.

What if my request is denied?

You will not be referred to ICE unless your case involves a criminal offense, fraud or a threat to national security or public safety. And you **CANNOT APPEAL** the decision.



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If you have any doubts regarding your eligibility, especially if you have been arrested or have any sort of criminal record, you should consult a lawyer before submitting an application to USCIS

What organizations in Philadelphia can provide further guidance?

The following provide legal services relating to immigration, including DACA:

HIAS PA (hias.org)
2100 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.832.0900

Esperanza Immigration Legal Services
(esperanza.us)
4261 North 5th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140

Nationalities Service Center (nscphila.org)
1216 Arch Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215.893.8400

The following can expedite the process to acquire a passport for eligible youth of Mexican origin:

Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia
(consulmex.sre.gob.mx/filadelfia/)
111 S. Independence Mall E. Suite 310
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.922.4262

The following do not necessarily provide legal services but offer valuable resources:

Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition
(paimmigrant.org)
2100 Arch Street, 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.832.0636

Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians
(welcomingcenter.org)
1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 555
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215.557.2626

Juntos (vamosjuntos.org)
2029 South 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148
215.218.9079

New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia
(newsanctuarymovement.org)
4404 North 5th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140
215.756.6445

Catholic Social Services
(catholicsocialservicesphilly.org)
4400 North Reese Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140
267.331.2500

Ceiba (ceibaphiladelphia.org)
149 West Susquehanna Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122
215.634.7245

DreamActivist Pennsylvania (dreamactivistpa.org)
info@dreamactivistpa.org

**Organizations may charge a consultation fee. These vary so make sure to compare prices and choose the best option for your needs.*