



FACT SHEET: DACA

WHAT IS DACA:

- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, is a program that gives temporary relief from deportation and the ability to work for young people who came to the United States as children.

WHAT DACA IS NOT:

- DACA is not a pathway to citizenship.
- DACA does not guarantee federal benefits for recipients.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR DACA

- Young people (born on or after June 16, 1981) who came to the U.S. before the age of 16.
- Have lived continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007.
At least 15 years old
- Currently in school or a graduate of high school or GED recipient or honorably discharged military veteran.
- Clean criminal record and pass a background check

HISTORY OF DACA

- DACA began as a movement. Young immigrants, who put their livelihoods at risk to create a better future for themselves and their families.
- The group of young people requested one thing: a fair system that would allow them to go to school and support themselves and their families financially.
- On June 15, 2012, President Barack Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which directed the United States Department of Homeland Security to grant a type of temporary permission for eligible young adults to stay in the United States.
- Since its enactment in 2012, young people who meet the requirements have been able to go to school, serve in the military, and contribute to the economy.

THE CURRENT THREAT TO DACA

- On June 29, 2017, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, along with 9 other Republican attorneys general from Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia, as well as the Governor of Idaho, sent an ultimatum to the U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions calling for the Secretary of Homeland Security to phase out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- The ultimatum gives the Trump Administration two options: get rid of DACA or they would use time and resources to destroy the program in the courts.
- The deadline for the Trump administration to make a decision is September 5, 2017.

WHAT THE CURRENT THREAT TO DACA MEANS FOR NEW MEXICO

- New Mexico is home to approximately 8,000 DACA eligible young people, and currently 6,815 are DACA recipients.*
- If the Trump administration ends DACA, New Mexico's institutions of higher education are at risk of losing students, many young immigrant workers will lose their ability to work leaving employers without the employees they used resources to train and hire, and many families will be forced to live with one less income taking away dispensable spending from the economy.

*Migration Policy Institute