



DACA: What Should I Do Now?

FAQ for DACA Recipients and Concerned Catholics While Waiting for the U.S. Supreme Court Decision

On November 12th, the U.S. Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments relating to the legality of the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program. It is likely that the Supreme Court will issue its opinion in Spring 2020. While waiting for this decision, please consider and read the following information.

Educate Yourself and Your Community Parish

If you are a DACA youth or a community leader, learn what is being advised regarding DACA at this time and help promote that information.

(1) There are NO new applications being accepted at this time. USCIS is not accepting first-time initial DACA requests from those who have never held DACA.

(2) Learn About Renewals: 3 Important Facts

Who can renew their DACA?

Anyone who has previously held DACA and continues to meet the DACA eligibility requirements may apply under current DHS policy.

When should renewal requests be filed?

Given the uncertain future of the DACA landscape, immigration service providers recommend that DACA recipients consider filing renewals without delay in the event that a future decision causes U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) (the office that processes DACA renewals) to stop accepting renewal requests.

USCIS has been accepting renewal requests that are filed more than 150 days before expiration. However, those who apply more than 150 days in advance run the risk of receiving an extension of less than two full years. Some applicants have also reported renewal requests filed more than 150 days in advance being held for several months before being adjudicated. Ultimately, it is the decision of each DACA recipient to weigh these potential risks against the benefits of a DACA extension before deciding how early to apply or whether to apply at all.

Should I seek out legal advice on renewals?

Yes. It is advisable to speak with a reputable legal service provider. Please see CLINIC's compiled list of national service providers, available at <https://cliniclegal.org/directory>.

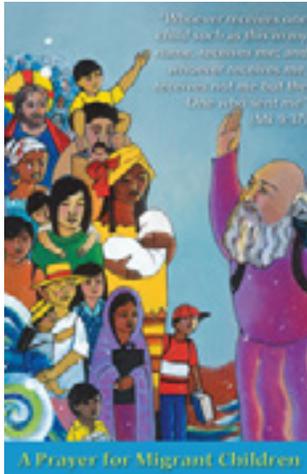
(3) Check Out CLINIC's Tools

A. Deciding What to Do with the End of DACA <https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/daca/DACA-Flow-chart-8-2-19.pdf>.

B. Bilingual Screening Tool <https://cliniclegal.org/sites/default/files/daca/DACA-Screening-Tool-Bilingual.pdf>.

Pray

Use and ask others to say this [prayer card](#) and other pertinent prayer resources.



Stand in Solidarity

If you are DACA recipient or the family member or friend of a DACA recipient or a concerned Catholic, consider helping DACA recipients fundraise for the cost of their DACA renewals. Currently DACA costs approximately \$495 to [renew](#). There are very few exceptions for this cost. Consider helping an individual fundraise for their renewal fee. See some resources below:

- If you're a DACA beneficiary of Mexican origin, remember that your consulate offers assistance. We invite Mexican DACA recipients to approach their consulate for an immigration screening and individualized legal assistance. Call 855-463-6395 or find a list of [local Mexican Consulates](#).
- [GoFundMe](#) launched an effort to help DACA recipients crowd fund to raise money for their renewal fees.
- Send letters and emails to select friends or family members. [Template here](#).
- Please see other ideas from <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/prayers-of-hope/>.

Continue to Advocate

From November 2019 until Spring 2020, while the U.S. Supreme Court deliberates, it is vital that we encourage Congress to act to provide Dreamers with a path to citizenship. As the House passed [H.R. 6](#) which includes a path to citizenship for Dreamers, we ask that you turn your attention to your Senators and urge them to stand in support of Dreamers by supporting [legislative protection](#) for Dreamers generally and the Dream Act of 2019 specifically.

- [Send this Action Alert](#) to your Senator:

Dear Senator,

As a person of faith, I stand with the U.S. Catholic Bishops and write to express my strong support for the "Dream Act of 2019" (S. 874). The young people protected by this bill are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes and communities. As Catholics, we have long supported DREAMERS as we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, especially that of our children. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a program that has benefited over 800,000 young people by ensuring that recipients are able to live their lives free of the anxiety that they could be deported at any time to a country they do not know and separated from their families.

I urge you to:

- *Support and co-sponsor S. 874, the Dream Act of 2019; and*
- *Continue to work towards larger legislative reform of our immigration laws.*

Catholics stand with you in support of the DREAM Act of 2019, S. 874.

Thank you.