

## DACA ending: What Dreamers need to know – and do ASAP

As you probably know, the Trump administration has announced that it is phasing out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. For the more than 8,000 people across Massachusetts whose lives have been transformed by DACA, this is very troubling news. **At MIRA, we are committed to doing everything in our power to support DACA beneficiaries through this difficult time.**

Find the latest info online: [www.miracoalition.org/daca](http://www.miracoalition.org/daca)

- **If you already have DACA, your deferred action and work authorization will continue until their expiration date.** There is only one immediate change: if you had hoped to travel with advance parole, that is no longer an option.
- The administration provided a narrow window for renewing DACA for those with work authorizations expiring **between September 5, 2017, and March 5, 2018.** The deadline, **October 5, 2017,** has now passed. If you applied and paid the \$495 fee yourself, but would like financial assistance, you can still get reimbursed; call 617-350-5480, x200, or email [citizenship@miracoalition.org](mailto:citizenship@miracoalition.org) by October 20 at the latest.
- If you'd filed an initial DACA application or renewal **before September 5,** it will still be processed, but no further applications will be accepted anymore.
- We encourage *all DACA recipients* to seek expert legal advice, especially if your DACA expires within just a few months. There may be other options for you, but the process takes time. Find a lawyer through the American Immigration Lawyers Association, [ailalawyer.com](http://ailalawyer.com), or call one of the organizations listed on our legal services directory: [www.miracoalition.org/legal-services](http://www.miracoalition.org/legal-services). **DO NOT hire a “notario”!**
- **If you are working,** regardless of when your permit expires, we recommend that you read this FAQ to understand your rights and options: [www.nilc.org/issues/daca/about-daca-and-employment/](http://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/about-daca-and-employment/).
- **If you are in college** and are wondering how this will affect your tuition or financial aid, we don't know! Check with the school; if they say that you have to pay out-of-state tuition, or will otherwise face negative consequences, please email [mdavis@miracoalition.org](mailto:mdavis@miracoalition.org). We're fighting to ensure this doesn't happen and advocating to change the law so all undocumented Mass. residents pay in-state tuition at public colleges.
- Whatever your situation, make sure you **know your rights!** You can find pocket cards, detailed explainers and posters here: [www.miracoalition.org/know-your-rights](http://www.miracoalition.org/know-your-rights).
- For a good **legal overview** for all DACA beneficiaries, see [www.ilrc.org/advisory-daca](http://www.ilrc.org/advisory-daca).
- Take care of yourself! The current situation is traumatic, and it may take a toll on your **mental health.** Find a group of supportive peers (e.g. through the Student Immigrant Movement, [www.simforus.org](http://www.simforus.org)), and take advantage of any services offered by your school. United We Dream also has a mental health toolkit: [weareheretostay.org/resources/mental-health-emergency-toolkit/](http://weareheretostay.org/resources/mental-health-emergency-toolkit/).

We know this is a lot to take in – and a lot to deal with while going to school, working, and probably worrying about your non-DACA family members. But remember, **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

To connect with the national movement to pass the DREAM Act, and also find more great resources, go to [WeAreHeretoStay.org](http://WeAreHeretoStay.org), from United We Dream. To join MIRA's advocacy in Massachusetts, like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/MIRACoalition](http://www.facebook.com/MIRACoalition) and join our email list: [bit.ly/MIRA-mail](http://bit.ly/MIRA-mail).

## DACA ending: What you can do as an advocate or ally

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has transformed the lives of nearly 800,000 young people, including more than 8,000 Massachusetts residents. Now that the Trump administration is ending the program, we must stand by their side and fight to protect them.

Find the latest info online: [www.miracoalition.org/DACA-action](http://www.miracoalition.org/DACA-action)

Established by President Obama in 2012, DACA allowed undocumented immigrant youth who met strict requirements to apply for “deferred action” and obtain a Social Security number and a work permit, subject to renewal every two years. For the young people who qualified, it was life-changing, making it possible to get a driver’s license for the first time; pursue an education (with in-state tuition at Massachusetts public colleges and universities); start a career; travel; and fully participate in their communities.

Now, unless Congress acts fast, Dreamers could lose it all. So we need to fight.

What can you do?

- If you’re a DACA beneficiary or have friends, family, colleagues, students or patients who are, see the other side of this sheet for **accurate, reliable, up-to-date info** on DACA – and share with others!
- Donate to MIRA’s **DACA Response Fund**: [miracoalition.kindful.com/?campaign=273098](http://miracoalition.kindful.com/?campaign=273098).
- Urge Congress to pass the bipartisan DREAM Act, which would provide a clear path to citizenship for Dreamers – and specifically, a **clean DREAM Act**, without the intolerable trade-offs that immigration opponents are trying to impose. Use our easy tool to quickly email and/or tweet your members of Congress as well as House Speaker Paul Ryan: [actnow.io/PVE30zW](http://actnow.io/PVE30zW).
- Join **rallies** across Massachusetts to support our DACA-mented friends, colleagues and family members! Find events near you via United We Dream: [WeAreHeretoStay.org/attend-an-event/](http://WeAreHeretoStay.org/attend-an-event/) and on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/MIRACoalition](http://www.facebook.com/MIRACoalition); also join our email list: [bit.ly/MIRA-mail](http://bit.ly/MIRA-mail). If you’re organizing an event, make sure to alert us! Email [mdavis@miracoalition.org](mailto:mdavis@miracoalition.org).
- Join our campaign for the **Safe Communities Act**, to ensure *all* young people and families feel welcome in Massachusetts, regardless of immigration status: <http://www.miracoalition.org/safe-communities>.
- Tell your legislators to support **higher ed equity legislation**, so undocumented students graduating from Massachusetts high schools qualify for in-state tuition even if they don’t have DACA (the bills are S.668, S.669, S.685, H.644, H.3003 and H.2231; find them and your legislators at <https://malegislature.gov>).
- Write an **op-ed or letter to the editor** for your local paper supporting the Safe Communities Act or higher ed equity; if you need help drafting or submitting it, email [mdavis@miracoalition.org](mailto:mdavis@miracoalition.org).
- Join the nationwide efforts of **United We Dream**, an advocacy organization led by Dreamers; go to [WeAreHeretoStay.org](http://WeAreHeretoStay.org) to take action right now.
- If you’re a young immigrant, Dreamer or not, join the **Student Immigrant Movement**: [www.facebook.com/Student.Immigrant.Movement](http://www.facebook.com/Student.Immigrant.Movement).