

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

As you probably know, last week the Trump administration announced that it will phase out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. For the nearly 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

- For those of you who already have DACA, there is only one *immediate* change: if you had hoped to travel with advance parole, that is no longer an option. Work authorizations and deferred action will continue, however – but it really matters when your permit expires.
- If your work authorization expires **between September 5, 2017, and March 5, 2018**, you have **only until October 5, 2017**, to apply to renew your DACA for two more years. You can find the renewal form and instructions here: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process/renew-your-daca>. Start the application ASAP. Since this is very time-sensitive and you have little room for error, if you have any questions or concerns, we strongly recommend that you get expert help.
- MIRA is hosting **FREE DACA renewal clinics** on **September 22 and 29**; call 617-350-5480, x200 to register; if you leave a voicemail, make sure to say you're asking about DACA clinics in particular. For other free legal clinics in greater Boston and beyond, see this calendar: <https://www.masslegalservices.org/daca-community-workshops/calendar/>.
- If your work authorization expires **after March 5, 2018**, you will *not* have the opportunity to renew it.
- If you'd filed an initial DACA application or renewal **before September 5**, it will still be processed, but no further initial applications for DACA are being accepted.
- **If you are working**, regardless of when your permit expires, we recommend that you read this FAQ to understand your rights and options: <https://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. 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: <http://www.miracoalition.org/know-your-rights>.
- For a good overview for all DACA beneficiaries, see <https://www.ilrc.org/advisory-daca>.

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, from United We Dream. To join MIRA's advocacy in Massachusetts, like us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/MIRACoalition> and join our email list: <http://eepurl.com/cWRx19>.

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 nearly 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

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**: <https://miracoalition.kindful.com/?campaign=273098>.
- 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/ and on our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/MIRACoalition>; also join our email list: <http://eepurl.com/cWRx19>. If you’re organizing an event, make sure to alert us! Email mdavis@miracoalition.org.
- Urge Congress to pass the bipartisan **DREAM Act**, which would provide a clear path to citizenship for Dreamers, without the uncertainties they faced with DACA. Sign this petition and click through to call your elected officials: <https://dreamers.fwd.us/petition>.
- 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.
- Join the nationwide efforts of **United We Dream**, an advocacy organization led by Dreamers; go to WeAreHeretoStay.org to take action right now.
- If you’re a young immigrant, Dreamer or not, join the **Student Immigrant Movement**: <https://www.facebook.com/Student.Immigrant.Movement>.