

Fact Sheet



October 2017

DACA Rescinded: What it Means for Contra Costa Dreamers, Families & Our Community

On September 5, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded the June 15, 2012 memorandum that created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Overview

DACA gave undocumented immigrants who arrived in the U.S. before age 16—sometimes referred to as “Dreamers”—a chance to stay, provided they met certain criteria such as being enrolled in school, working, earning a high school diploma or GED equivalent, and not being convicted of a serious crime. Dreamers received a work permit and protection from deportation for two years, with the possibility of renewing the benefits.

DACA by the Numbers

Approximately 800,000 young people received work permits and protection from deportation through the DACA program, with nearly 690,000 currently enrolled (Pew Research Center). DACA enrollees and those immediately eligible contribute an estimated \$2 billion annually in state and local taxes (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy).

Contra Costa County “Dreamers”

California has 223,000 DACA recipients, including nearly 188,000 who are currently working in the state. Although the exact number of Contra Costa County participants is unknown, the Migration Policy Institute estimates 8,000 residents are currently eligible for DACA, with an additional 4,000 who may have become eligible in the future.

93%

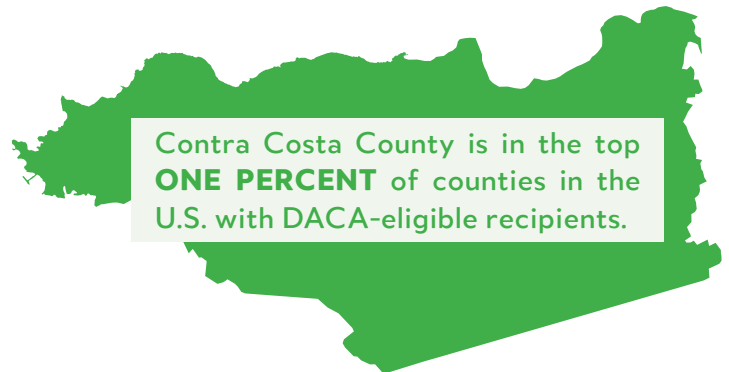
of DACA recipients are working

In addition:

- ▶ **More than 77 percent** of recipients over age 25 reported getting a job with better pay after attaining DACA status
- ▶ **65 percent** of all DACA recipients were able to pursue educational opportunities that they previously could not
- ▶ **More than 65 percent** reported buying their first car

(2017 National DACA Study by University of California San Diego Associate Professor Tom K. Wong et al)

The purchasing power of DACA recipients translates to revenues at the state and local level as they buy homes, cars and other goods and services.



The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors recognizes the significant contributions DACA recipients make to the community’s social fabric and economy through higher education levels, increased wages, and establishment of families and homes. The Board is urging the President of the United States and his administration to preserve the DACA program, and for Congress to pass legislation that permanently protects DACA recipients.

(Resolution No. 2017/343, September 19, 2017)

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What's Next

The plan for phasing out DACA is as follows:

- No new DACA applications are being accepted as of the September 5th announcement to end the program.
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) processed renewal applications received through October 5, 2017.
- DACA benefits are generally valid for two years from the date of issuance. Current DACA recipients will be permitted to retain both the period of deferred action and their employment authorization documents (EADs) until they expire, unless terminated or revoked.

Various members of Congress have already put forward a number of proposals, ranging from legalizing the DACA program as-is to broader "immigration reform" concepts. Additional legislative plans are expected to continue to unfold in future weeks and possibly months.

The DACA rescission will take effect on March 5th, 2018, unless Congress passes legislation to maintain the program or create an alternative one.

What You Can Do

Contact your local representatives urging them to protect and support the 800,000 "Dreamers" – many of whom know no other country than the United States.

Current DACA Timeline

