

DREAMER



It's an honor to be in the *Honors Scholars Program* and have the opportunity to share a special project that resonates with who I am as a person and to the DACA community. *DREAMER* is a publication that showcases *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*. Not only will the magazine talk about the history of DACA, but it will also include the creator's story, other DACA recipients' stories, exclusive interviews, resources, and visuals.

The name "DREAMER" is simple and short. DACA recipients are known as DREAMERS; we have dreams like everyone else. Every month we release new content that is based on DACA, the goal of this publication is to help other DREAMERS to thrive in America. So many resources are limited that it makes me feel like a burden. The help of my family, friends, colleagues, professors, and supporters inspired me to keep going forward because after a storm comes a rainbow.

Aleex Martinez, Editor in Chief



Photo By Salsabila Lamisa

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HISTORY OF DACA

By Aleexx Martinez



In June 2012, *The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals* was developed by the Obama Administration. President Barack Obama made the announcement on June 15, 2012, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) started to accept DACA applications in August 2012. DACA is an immigration policy in the US where some immigrants with unlawful presence after coming here as a child receive a two-year deferred action from deportation, eligible to work and continue their education.

There's an estimation of 1.9 million potential participants in the United States confirmed by The Migration Policy Institute. 844,931 DACA applications have been approved as of June 2016. The majority of DACA recipients are from Mexico and its more diverse. There are DACA

recipients from other countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, India, South Korea, Pakistan, Jamaica, Haiti, the Philippines, Poland and Tobago.

When Donald J. Trump was elected for President in 2017, the success of the DACA program went downhill. Trump made a campaign where he will be shutting the DACA program during his election. This will affect every DACA recipient that will have a chance to face deportation. The Trump Administration announced that they will eliminate DACA. Unfortunately, new DACA applicants aren't allowed to apply for the program, and recipients that have DACA are able to renew their EAD card but have now been reduced to a year instead of two years. Now, Biden is president, DACA has now went back to renewal for two years.

Collage By Aleexx Martinez

In order to be eligible to join the DACA program, you must

- Be under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
- Have come to the United States before your 16th birthday
- Have residence in the United States since June 15, 2007
- Have been present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of the request for consideration under DACA
- No unlawful status since June 15, 2012
- Be currently enrolled in school, graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from a high school, or have received a GED, or discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States
- Not be convicted of a felony, significant three or more misdemeanor, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety

MY STORY

By Aleexx Martinez

I migrated to the United States when I was 6 months old. I was born in Mexico and raised in Brooklyn, New York for 21 years and counting. I didn't know about DACA until I was in my sophomore year at *Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School*. I remember my parents asking me so many school documents from pre-k till high school, I wasn't sure why they asked for all of these papers. Until my dad told me, "You can't go to school on a Tuesday because we have to go to this important meeting." Me and my dad were in the city and we went into a big building. The receptionist asked for IDs and we went to this nice waiting room until a lady comes and calls both of us. She tells me that my parents applied for me to get DACA, which will help me continue my education, be able to work in the US, and travel to countries if it's educational, career or family member is sick. I was only 15, I didn't really care until senior year, in high school they call it, "college year."

I was applying to colleges because why not? Also, I wasn't really looking forward to going to college because I didn't know what I was supposed to major in besides Illustration in FIT which they only had that major. I applied to 5 CUNY colleges and 1 SUNY. *The Fashion Institute of Technology* was my dream school, I did the essays and portfolio they asked for, I was confident enough that I'll get accepted. Then when I was done applying to colleges, the next step was to apply for FAFSA. But my college advisor respectfully told me, "Wait, Alex, you're a DACA recipient? You weren't born here. Unfortunately, you can't apply for FAFSA." I felt heartbroken because what I'm suppose to do or say when someone tells you that? Going forward, I got rejected by FIT because my GPA wasn't good and that made me really upset. I started blaming myself, not being proud of who I am.



Photo By Salsabila Lamisa

I was enrolled in *Kingsborough* (majoring in Graphic Design) and I had to pay for college out of pocket because of my citizen status. My parents helped me pay my tuition which I'm forever grateful for. Then my old job *McDonald's* was giving scholarships to their employees, I applied for it and I received the scholarship. Then after a semester

TAP announced that they will be accepting DREAMers to apply the *Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act*. I remember doing my homework at 3 am, I received an email from ASAP and they told me that I'll be receiving a scholarship due to having good academic standards. Both of those programs and the help from my advisors Peter Santiago and Susan Richards covered my last year of college. A lot of weight just lift off my shoulders.

"Keep your head up and keep on walking."

Now, I'm in *New York City College of Technology* (continuing to major in Graphic Design). During my last year of Kingsborough, I applied for this scholarship

that's been going around which was called *The Dream US Scholarship*. I found out that they can cover my last two years of college and I applied right away. I did the two essays, answered the questions, and submitted the documents that they asked for. Early August, I got an email saying I got accepted and my scholarship will be covering my last two years of college. Ever since that email, my life has changed. It made me realize that if there's a will, there's a way. Recently, I joined the *Honors Scholars Program* and all this work that I've done over the past years is leading me to opportunities that will benefit my career. I'm just so full of gratitude, this journey was bittersweet.

DREAMERS' STORIES

By Aleexx Martinez

There are other DREAMERS around the United States that have dreams they want to accomplish, but without a green card, it's hard. Ever since DACA was announced more than 800,000 immigrants applied to the program. Now, with the support and materials for being a DACA recipient, DREAMERS are able to achieve their goals like work in the United States, complete their education and see their relatives due to health issues. This page showcase other DREAMERS sharing their experience of being a DACA recipient. Hearing other DREAMERS' stories builds a whole new perspective because there are people that are in the same shoes as me. Having successful DREAMERS thrive in their careers will resonate with others that they can accomplish anything in life.

Amairani Miranda Gonzaga

My name is Amairani Miranda-Gonzaga and I'm a DREAMER born in Mexico with Mexican heritage. I came to the United States in 1995 when I was 1 year old, along with my mom and older sister. Like many of us, we came undocumented, but with my parents' dream of giving my sister and me a better future. When the DACA program was announced by President Obama in June of 2012, I was 18 years old. I had already graduated high school and had worked the odd job where I could. While watching as classmates were able to get driving permits, and eventually their licenses, in high school was hard, and most of my friends has been accepted into colleges or Universities before graduating, I know I didn't struggle as much as many other dreamers who were older than me at the time. I applied for DACA as soon as possible with the help of a non-profit organization in Chicago, and I was approved. Since then, I have applied to renew my DACA status on time every time and have made sure to take advantage of this opportunity. I have since been steadily employed with good income in my current career, I became a homeowner at the age of 23, and I am currently pursuing my bachelor's degree in Human Services. While I am hopeful, and would prefer, that a more permanent solution become available to us DREAMERS, I am extremely thankful for the opportunity that we have been given.



Photo By Amairani Miranda Gonzaga

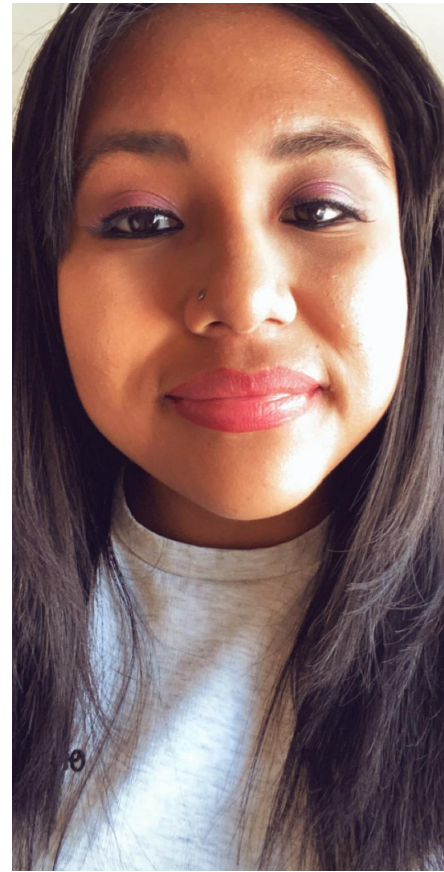


Photo By Tania Hernandez Orozco

Tania Hernandez Orozco

Hi, my name is Tania Hernandez Orozco and I am a first-generation daughter of immigrants. As such, it became my sole responsibility to represent my family in front of the new society we found ourselves calling home. I became my parents' translator, consultant, and guide. As the years went by I knew I harbored a secret that could affect more than myself if I ever mentioned it. Then June 2012 came to be and news of a new program designed to aid immigrant children in becoming a recognized part of society were surfacing; Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (a.k.a. "DACA"). I was so happy on the moment, at last, an opportunity to be a little more "normal". Now I would be able to protect my parents by holding a valid driver's license and I wouldn't wind up at the local meat processing plant working for minimum wage. I had an actual shot at offering more to my community. The scary part came when I began to file my initial request. Immigration would know everything about my family and myself. They would know exactly where we lived, where my siblings and I attended school, and where my parents worked. It was nerve racking to think that at any minute the people I feared most would be able to show up and know exactly where to find us. However, it was a risk my family and I was willing to take because the benefits were superior. Now after having DACA for almost ten years, I can confidently say it has changed my life. I feel more "normal" and with less fear to take on projects. I am an involved member of my community and a recent nursing school graduate. Due to DACA I was able to obtain my driver's license and purchase a new car. I received TheDream.US Opportunity Scholarship and graduated with my Bachelors of Science in Nursing. I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to be in a better position than when my family left our home country and be able to provide my parents with new opportunities.

Aline Vasquez

I remember it being yesterday when former president Barack Obama announced the approval of DACA. The hope I had lost whenever I would get turned down from a job because I didn't have the proper 'paperwork'. The feeling of hopelessness, fear, even guilt I would have to carry on my back. The approval came about in 2014 - I was in high school at the time, I would walk around the school feeling different, the feeling of not 'belonging'. I'd say to myself I don't see the point of finishing high school, from what I was told undocumented kids were unable to attend college. That's when it hit me the hardest. One morning my dad called me to congratulate me about the approval with tears of joy running down my face, first thing that came to mind were my parents. I was now able to achieve more in life, but most importantly I was now be able to provide back to my parents for all their burdens. Many Dreamers can relate that growing up wasn't easy for us. Me being an "only child" only made it harder. Having no one around me to translate, but leave it to the 8 year old kid with broken English to do so for her parents. So you can only imagine what it was like opening and translating important mails... In other words me having to be a parent to my parents when it came to certain things. I still have a bittersweet relationship with my immigration status, yes we were granted ability to be able to go to work, attend college, drive, etc. But at some point we all faced a fear of it being taken away from us. Hearing the news of deportation for many Dreamers brought back the same fear I had in me as a little girl, confession, and left with questions for why a person who has not committed a single crime but simply looking forward to having a better future for herself and her parents be seen and labeled as a 'criminal'. I'm now 22, never in a millions years did I think I would be my own boss let alone have my own business. I found comfort in my discomforts and usabilities. Today, we as DACA recipients are fulfilling our parents' dreams, and I'm proud to say we are breaking generational curses day by day, by becoming the best versions of ourselves. We are the future.



Photo By Aline Vasquez

INTERVIEW

By Aleexx Martinez

In this page I interview Deyanira Betancourt Castillo who is a DACA Recipient and was born in Mexico. She's twenty-five years old and arrived to United States when she was five years old. She is enrolled in Oglethorpe University and recieved *The Dream US Scholarship*.

How did you find out about DACA?

DACA was introduced to me by my community church when I was 15-16 years of age.

How is your experience on being a DACA recipient?

Being a DACA recipient has allowed me to experience a little of what fitting in is like. I have been able to work, and drive and work on my credit score just like any other citizen would. It has allowed me to buy a car, a home, and has even allowed me to receive full ride scholarships to be able to study and follow my career dreams.

What were your thoughts when Trump was elected and trying to get rid of the DACA program?

When Trump was elected as president, it almost felt like my world came to a halt. I felt like everything I had worked so hard for was being stripped away.

Do you feel different (like an outcast) from society due to your citizen status?

I do feel like an outcast from society, but I don't think others realize that I may be a little different from them until I mention that I have DACA.

When you tell people that you're a DACA recipient, how do you feel about it and what's their reaction to it?

When I mention that I am a DACA recipient I usually follow with 'yes, I was born in Mexico', and the most common response I get is 'but you don't have an accent'. I get questioned about what DACA is and what it is for. Talking about DACA has definitely become my favorite thing to do when meeting new people. I love seeing the look on their faces

when they see that an immigrant is sitting right beside them doing the same work they are doing. Or working right along side them, it gives me satisfaction knowing that an immigrant like me can do it, anyone can do it.

Let's say you got your green card or citizenship, would that change you as a person? And, would you bury down your whole experience of being a DACA recipient?

I absolutely would not change as a person, DACA is who made me who I am today and because of DACA I have achieved all that I've been able to. DACA is a part of me so burying it would be like deleting a part of me.

Thank you so much for your time to interview you. It's been an honor to chat with you. I wish you the best in your career as a DACA recipient Deyanira!

Absolutely! Thank you and I'm so excited for you!



ENTREVISTAR

By Aleexx Martinez

En esta página entrevisto a Deyanira Betancourt Castillo, quien es un receptor de DACA y nació en México. Tiene veinticinco años y llegó a Estados Unidos cuando tenía cinco años. Está inscrita en la Universidad de Oglethorpe y recibió la beca *Dream US*.

Tu nombre completo

Deyanira Betancourt Castillo.

¿Cuántos años tienes y dónde naciste?

Tengo 25 años de edad y nací en el Distrito Federal de la ciudad de México.

¿Hace cuánto tiempo llegaste a los estados unidos?

Llegue a los Estados Unidos cuando tenía 5 añitos.

¿A qué te dedicas actualmente?

Actualmente, yo me dedico a ser estilista profesional. después de graduarme de la secundaria estudié un año para recibir mi licencia de estilista en el estado de georgia como igual no pude ir al colegio o a la universidad por que los dreamers no reciben ayuda del gobierno.

En caso de estar estudiando ¿Qué estudias y donde?

Recientemente, me enteré de una universidad que apoyan a los dreamers y nos ayudan a seguir estudiando, Oglethorpe University. Aplique, me aceptaron. Y no solo eso, durante el tiempo que esperaba los resultados de aver sido aceptada al colegio o no, también tube la oportunidad de aplicar para una beca. The-Dream.us es una beca dada

específicamente a estudiantes con DACA. Esta beca es un "full ride" y cubre todos los gastos de la universidad. Fue una de las varias que me dieron para seguir estudiando ahí.

¿Cuáles son las ventajas de tener DACA?

Ventajas no, bendiciones si. tener Daca significa para mi, todo. yo e podido seguir trabajando, y también e podido obtener una licencia para manejar

¿Has tenido dificultades para el tramite de tu documentacion?

Ahora que ya estoy casada espero que el trámite sea más fácil para tener mis documentos.

¿Tu como dreamer que peticiones le harias al gobierno en referencia al estatus legal de miles de sonadores?

En referencia a los miles de soñadores, las peticiones que yo pudiera son las mismas que emos exijo años tras años- que terminen los contratos entre ICE y compañías privadas que se adueñan de centros de inmigración. Les pido que por favor no se olviden de los niños de DACA que apenas van empezando y que no se olviden de los jóvenes adultos que deseamos que el Dream Act se haga realidad.

En caso de llegar a obtener un estatud legal permanete en los estados unidos. ¿Cuáles serían tus planes? ¡Gracias!

Si algún día mis sueños como Dreamer se hacen realidad y llegó a obtener un estatus legal permanente en los estados unidos lo primero que aria sería ayudar a mis padres. que por mi y mi hermano dejaron todo lo que conocían en Mexico para poder darnos un caramelo de una tierra diferente. les debo mi vida y mas a ellos.

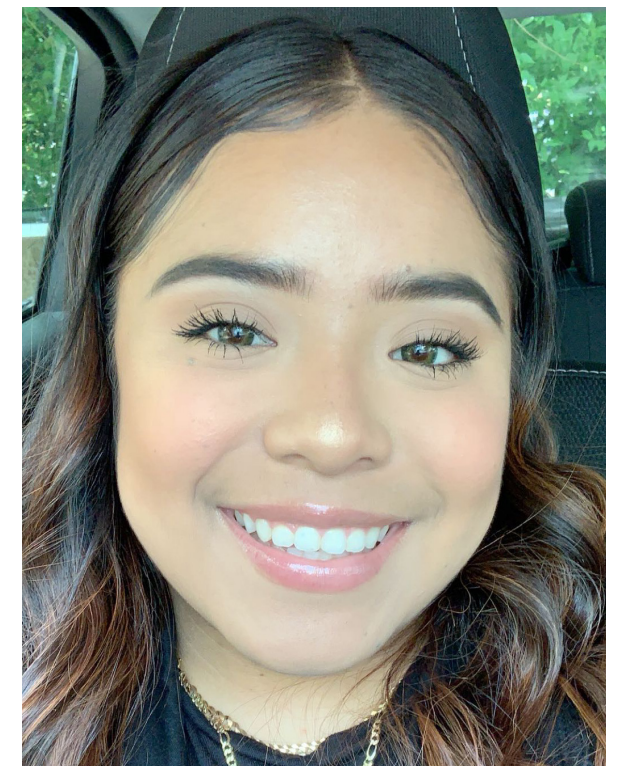


Photo By Deyanira Betancourt Castillo

EL MUNDO

Demonstrators, including recipients of protections under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, marched in New York last week (Sep 3, 2017)

—Quote & Photo By Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times



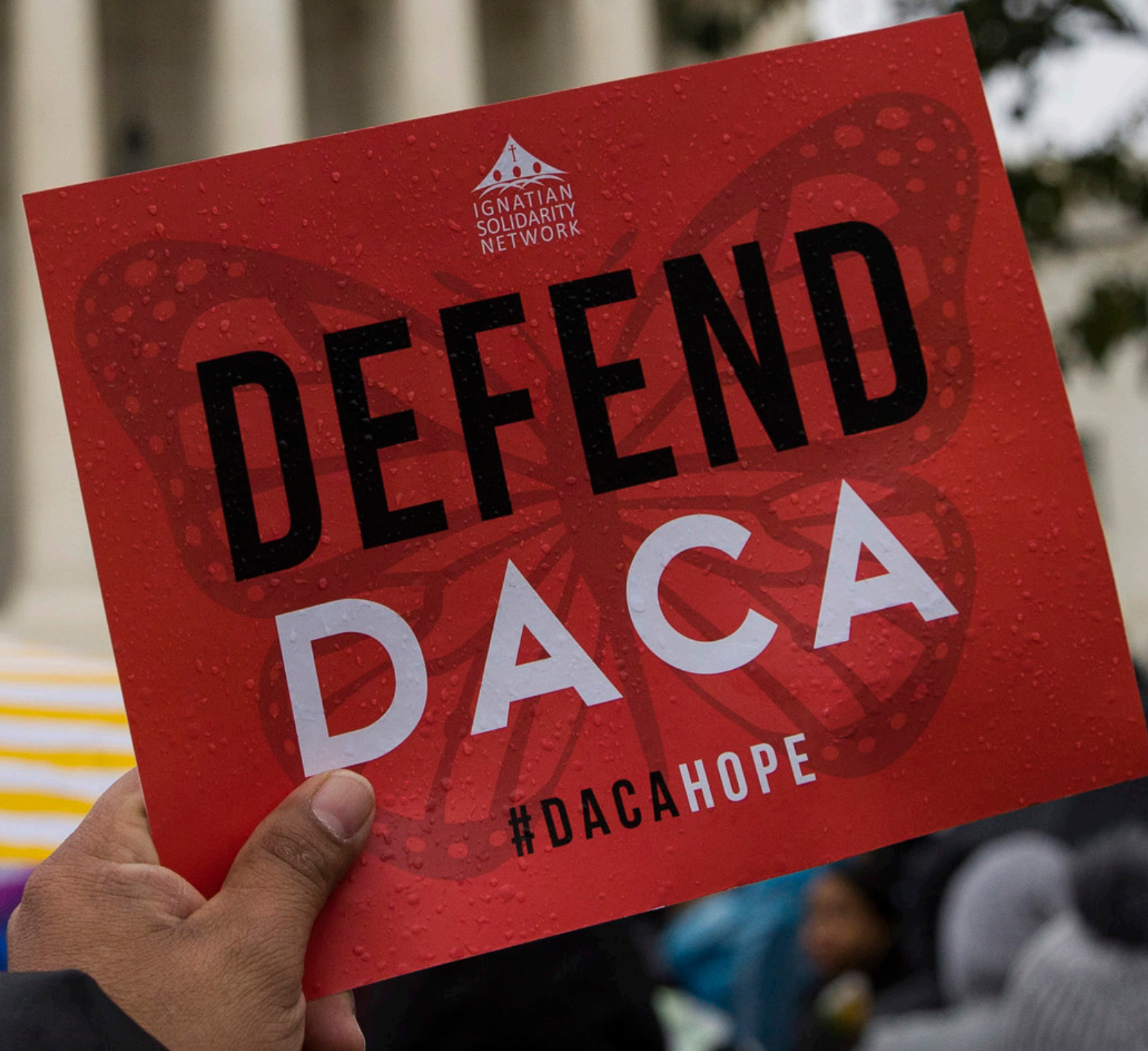
The US Supreme Court's decision upholding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is a stinging rebuke of the Trump administration's ill-conceived attempt to end DACA, deeming it 'arbitrary and capricious.' Several hundred thousand undocumented immigrants were thrown into limbo when the Trump administration rescinded DACA in September 2017. The actions of the Trump Administration to end DACA threatened to irreparably harm students, educators and school systems across the nation.

—Quote By Need Justice &
Photo by Photocrunch



“People rally outside the Supreme Court as oral arguments are heard in the case of President Trump’s decision to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, at the Supreme Court in Washington.

—Quote By VOANEWS &
Photo By AP PHOTO/Alex Brandon



RESOURCES

By Aleex Martinez

LOS RECURSOS

By Aleex Martinez

DACA Renewals

Legal and monetary support that provides folks to renew their DACA from a list of Organizations <https://unitedwedream.org/2021/04/daca-recipient-needs-support/>

Renewal Fee & Legal Assistance

This link has a list of organizations from different states that provides legal assistance and grants for DACA recipients who need to renew their DACA.

<http://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Immigration-Legal-Services-Providers-UnidosUS-091217.pdf>

MAF Immigration Loans

MAF is a non-profit organization that provides help to minorities. They offer loans if any applicant needs to pay USCIS filing fees for DACA, Citizenship, Adjustment of Status, Petition for a Relative and Temporary Protected Status. This program only resides to people who live in California. To find out more information visit MAF's website.

<https://www.missionassetfund.org/immigration-programs/>

Immigrants Rising previously known as Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC)

An organization located by the Bay Area and focuses on uplifting undocumented young immigrants to see and work their full potential in themselves and communities. <https://immigrantsrising.org/>

Immigrants Like Us

Immigrants Like Us is a non-profit organization that provides help to Dreamers that are preparing DACA renewals or green card applications from marriage. ILU's Turbotax is a web application that will review your documents by an expert (Filing all for free).

<https://www.immigrationhelp.org/>

Hispanic Federation

This organization is located in New York and provides a lead to citizenship consortium with a desirable record. Due to its inception, over 30,000 immigrants have been served by the consortium.

<https://hispanicfederation.org/>

Immigration Loans

The Immigration Loans is located in Illinois and is a quick and accessible to cover the DACA application and build an outstanding credit history.

<https://www.self-helpfcu.org/personal/loans/immigration-loans>

USCIS Guidance for Employers

A fact sheet showcase solid guidances to employers on treatments of EADs issues from USCIS to DACA recipients and how employers process Form I-9 with their DACA employees.

https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/fact-sheets/DACA-Fact-Sheet-I-9_Guidance-for-employers_nov20_2012.pdf

DACA & Employment Rights

Here's a list of FAQs about DACA rights and employment. Also other information that will help you when you apply for work as a DACA recipient.

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/about-daca-and-employment/>

The Dream US Scholarships

The Dream.US provides scholarships for DREAMers who are willing to go to college. Depending on your eligibility for both scholarships is based on your location. To find out more information go to

<https://thedream.us/scholarships/>

Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act

The Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act provides access to New York State-administered grants and scholarships to DREAMers.

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/dream/>

Tuition Assistance for McDonald's Employees

Tuition Assistance will help pay such as a two or four year public/private college or university. DREAMers that are employed in McDonald's are eligible to apply the Tuition Assistance. To find out more information go to

<https://mcdta.applyists.net/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fMCDTA>

DACA Renewals

Apoyo legal y monetario que proporciona a las personas renovar su DACA de una lista de organizaciones <https://unitedwedream.org/2021/04/daca-recipient-needs-support/>

Renewal Fee & Legal Assistance

Este enlace tiene una lista de organizaciones de diferentes estados que brindan asistencia legal y subvenciones para los beneficiarios de DACA que necesitan renovar su DACA. <http://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Immigration-Legal-Services-Providers-UnidosUS-091217.pdf>

MAF Immigration Loans

MAF es una organización sin fines de lucro que brinda ayuda a los minoritarios. Ofrecen préstamos si algún solicitante necesita pagar las tarifas de presentación de USCIS para DACA, Ciudadanía, Ajuste de Estatus, Petición de un Pariente y Estatus de Protección Temporal. Este programa solo reside en personas que viven en California. Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web de MAF.

<https://www.missionassetfund.org/immigration-programs/>

Immigrants Rising previously known as Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC)

Una organización ubicada en el Área de la Bahía y se enfoca en elevar a los jóvenes inmigrantes indocumentados para que vean y trabajen todo su potencial en sus comunidades y comunidades. <https://immigrantsrising.org>

Immigrants Like Us

Immigrants Like Us es una organización sin fines de lucro que brinda ayuda a los Dreamers que están preparando renovaciones de DACA o solicitudes de tarjeta verde del matrimonio. Turbotax de ILU es una aplicación web que revisará sus documentos por un experto (de forma gratuita). <https://www.immigrationhelp.org/>

Hispanic Federation

Esta organización está ubicada en Nueva York y proporciona un consorcio líder a la ciudadanía con un registro deseable. Debido a su creación, más de 30,000 inmigrantes han sido atendidos por el consorcio.

<https://hispanicfederation.org/>

Immigration Loans

Los Préstamos de Inmigración se encuentran en Illinois y son rápidos y accesibles para cubrir la solicitud de DACA y construir un historial de crédito sobresaliente.

<https://www.self-helpfcu.org/personal/loans/immigration-loans>

USCIS Guidance for Employers

Una hoja informativa muestra orientaciones sólidas para los empleadores sobre el tratamiento de los problemas de EAD desde USCIS hasta los beneficiarios de DACA y cómo los empleadores procesan el Formulario I-9 con sus empleados de DACA.

https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/fact-sheets/DACA-Fact-Sheet-I-9_Guidance-for-employers_nov20_2012.pdf

DACA & Employment Rights

Aquí hay una lista de preguntas frecuentes sobre los derechos y el empleo de DACA. También otra información que lo ayudará cuando solicite trabajo como beneficiario de DACA.

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/about-daca-and-employment/>

The Dream US Scholarships

El Dream.US proporciona becas para DREAMers que están dispuestos a ir a la universidad. Dependiendo de su elegibilidad para ambas becas se basa en su ubicación. Para obtener más información, vaya a

<https://thedream.us/scholarships/>

Senator José Peralta New York State DREAM Act

La Ley DREAM del Senador José Peralta del Estado de Nueva York proporciona acceso a subvenciones y becas administradas por el Estado de Nueva York a los DREAMers.

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/dream/>

Tuition Assistance for McDonald's Employees

La asistencia de matrícula ayudará a pagar, como un colegio o universidad pública / privada de dos o cuatro años. Los DREAMers que están empleados en McDonald's son elegibles para aplicar la Asistencia de Matrícula. Para obtener más información, vaya a

<https://mcdta.applyists.net/Account/LogOn?ReturnUrl=%2fMCDTA>

HOPE

By Aleexx Martinez

Till this day Biden is President but the fight for DACA is not over yet. In July 2021 a federal judge in Texas annouced to the federal government to stop the applications for DACA. We won't rest til we get our pathway to citizenship, there is still hope.



Collage By Aleexx Martinez

WE ARE HERE
ESTAMOS AQUÍ

0 Halo
0 Fear

EVERY
GREAT DREAM
BEING WITH A
DREAMER

NO
DREAMER
WILL

