

Overview on DACA and Dreamers

- ▶ **Dreamer vs. DACA?** Currently, there are around 700,000 DACA recipients and the overall Dreamer population is around 1.8 million. The Dreamer population is larger as these individuals were either a few years too old or too young for the DACA program (when enrollment began in 2012 and ended in 2017) but they were also brought to the US by their parents as children. USCCB advocates for the larger Dreamer population that was originally in and continues to be covered by the Dream Act.



DACA State of Play

- The Trump Administration terminated DACA in September 2017.
- The termination was the subject of litigation and multiple nationwide preliminary injunctions. The injunctions did not allow new DACA applicants to apply for the program and created uncertainty for those enrolled in the program.



- The House of Representatives passed HR 6 on June 2019, which provides permanent legal protection to DACA recipients and other populations in need of protection.
- No similar level of action has occurred in the Senate.



- In November 2019, the Supreme Court heard arguments relating to the legality of DACA.
- The Supreme Court can either uphold the program or can allow the termination of DACA to occur.
- If the Supreme Court ends the DACA program and there is no legislation that passes the Senate, DACA youth will face an uncertain future and maybe even deportation and family separation.

Some Facts and Figures

- There are more than 700,000 young people with DACA who have lived and worked legally in the U.S. for many years.
- Many DACA recipients are on the frontlines of the #COVID-19 pandemic, fighting to keep us and our communities safe.
- In 2018, there were 280,000 undocumented workers in the healthcare industry, including 62,600 DACA-eligible individuals.
- The DACA-eligible population earned almost \$25.2 billion in total income in 2018.
- In 2015, DACA-eligible entrepreneurs had a total business income of \$658.7 million.
- DHS and ICE can, conceivably, begin apprehending and deporting DACA recipients soon after SCOTUS issues a negative decision.
- We need to protect the ability of DACA recipients – many of them Catholic – to continue to fully contribute to our communities.



Dreamers and COVID 19

▶ **DACA Recipients Are on the Frontlines of the COVID-19 Response:**

- DACA recipients work in the following critical industries:
 - **62,600 work in the health care industry**
 - **21,100 work in transportation and warehousing**
 - **32,800 are employed in retail trade**
 - **14,500 work in the manufacturing sector**
 - **76,600 have been working in restaurants and other food services**

▶ **DACA Recipients Are More Vulnerable Due to COVID 19:**

- Generally not eligible for stimulus rebates if they do not have a social security number or a family member does not have one
- Access to healthcare and testing is not guaranteed and is not free
- Can face additional employment hassles due to immigration processing issues- USCIS closures



Possible Congressional Actions to Protect DACA Immigrants

With House passage of H.R. 6, action to protect DACA recipients in the Senate needs to take place.

- Pass HR 6 or the Dream Act (unlikely due to timing)
- Include provisions to temporarily protect DACA immigrants in COVID-19 legislation
 - HEROES Act has provisions & already passed
 - Senate?
- Include prohibition on enforcement of DACA recipients in FY 21 Appropriations bill



Photo Credit: Brookings

What We Can Do Now for DACA Recipients

- Advocate and contact your U.S. Senators. Send our JFI action alert to your Senators asking they protect DACA recipients from deportation and family separation.
- Recommend DACA recipients get screened by a BIA-accredited attorney or representative to determine if they are eligible for other forms of more permanent relief. A [study](#) by the Center for Migration Studies found that 14% of individuals screened for the DACA program were potentially eligible for permanent immigration status.
- Help DACA youth to learn about their rights in case of an immigration enforcement action.
- Seize this opportunity to remind Catholics on our teachings, demonstrate our compassion to and solidarity with people seeking safety and security in our country, and improve the way the U.S. welcomes all immigrants in the future.
- Join in prayer with and for DACA recipients. Ask your parish priest to use these intercessions in the Prayers of the Faithful.
- View and encourage others to join the JFI webinar on DACA the day after the Supreme Court rules.

Suggested Intercessions for Prayers of the Faithful

Please choose some of the following to be included among the intercessions in your parish or during prayer services for DACA recipients

- For all the bishops in our Church as they continue to provide guidance and pastoral support to DACA recipients during these difficult times
- For all the Catholic faithful, that God inspire them to act in their local communities in support of DACA recipients.
- For our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they live and work in solidarity with DACA recipients in search of a solution that provides permanent relief to this population.
- For DACA recipients, that they remain strong in the face of uncertainty, and bold in their call for justice.
- For the President of the United States and all government leaders, that they recognize the significant contributions of DACA recipients and support legislation that protects these young migrants.

Justice for Immigrants Webinar



Update on SCOTUS Decision on DACA: What We Know and What's to Come

*With a Supreme Court decision on DACA expected at any time, please join us in a webinar **the day after the decision at 2 PM Eastern** to learn more about the ruling and what you can do to protect DACA immigrants from deportation and family separation.*

Join the webinar at: [Bit.ly/DACA_SCOTUS](https://bit.ly/DACA_SCOTUS)

Dial in for audio: (267) 279-9000, PIN 165227956#

Presenters:

- Illisa Mira, *Staff Attorney - CLINIC*
- José Arnulfo Cabrera, *Director of Education and Advocacy for Migration - Ignatian Solidarity Network*
- Ashley Feasley, *USCCB/MRS Director of Policy*

Please email acube@usccb.org with questions



What Else Can We Do Now for DACA Recipients?

- **Contact Your U.S. Senators**
 - Take action: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/category/action-alerts/>
- **Pray and Learn More**
 - [Rosary for Vulnerable Migrant Populations](#)
 - JFI's DACA and Dreamer Resources Page: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/daca-resource-page/>
 - Sign up for Justice for Immigrants: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/take-action/join-us/>

“One year ago, today the House of Representatives passed H.R. 6, a bill offering a pathway to citizenship to Dreamers, TPS and DED holders. Today, sadly, Dreamers and TPS holders remain vulnerable and without permanent legal status. This continued uncertainty for Dreamers and TPS holders comes at a time during the COVID-19 pandemic when many Dreamers and TPS holders are, alongside U.S. citizens, on the frontlines providing essential work for our country in health care, food supply, and transportation. For example, currently, more than 62,000 workers who are DACA-eligible are working in healthcare.

As we await a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court on the legality of ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, we again call on the Senate to push forward with legislation that provides a path to citizenship for these individuals, who are essential to our communities, our Church and our country.”

-- [Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville](#), auxiliary bishop of Washington, DC and chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Migration on the one year anniversary of the passage of HR 6, the DREAM and Promise Act, June 4, 2020.

