



Resource Guide for Elected Leaders

Municipalities across the country have embraced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and recognized the tremendous contributions of Dreamers to our communities and economies. In turn, DACA has provided thousands of Dreamers with the opportunity to pursue higher education, their career goals, and to give back to the country they call home.

This toolkit was created by Cities for Action to provide messaging tools and strategies to educate decision makers, inform the public narrative on DACA, and lead community members to action. The tools here will help readers connect personal stories and data to raise awareness for DACA recipients at local and national levels, showcasing the benefits that they—and their families—bring to local communities. Included are key policy recommendations to help protect DACA-eligible residents and broader immigrant communities.



Note: Links and references to organizational resources do not indicate an endorsement of said resources or associated organization. Please contact each organization directly with questions.

STATE OF PLAY

On June 18, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the Trump Administration’s 2017 attempt to terminate DACA unlawful. The Supreme Court ordered the Administration to continue accepting new DACA applications, requests for Advance Parole, and DACA renewals.

On July 28, 2020 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released a memo declaring the agency would institute “interim” changes to the DACA program while the Trump Administration considered a renewed attempt to rescind DACA completely.

On November 14, 2020, a federal judge in New York City ruled acting secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf, assumed his position unlawfully, and as such, his limitation of DACA protections is invalidated. It is not yet clear what the impact of this ruling will be.



Click [here](#) to view the full July 28 memo.

Key Data Points



We need a just and permanent solution. Leaving hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients in limbo with only temporary status exposes thousands of families to the risk of separations and upheaval. Many families may be unprepared to deal with these sudden separations and may face financial and emotional

hardships. Because the average DACA recipient came to the US when they were 7 years old and have established lives in the US, deportation would destroy and tear apart families, uproot entire communities, and disrupt local economies. DACA recipients may be deported to unfamiliar places where they don't have support or language proficiency.

1. **Broad support exists for a solution.** 74% of Americans favor a law that would provide permanent legal status to immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally as children, while 24% are opposed. By party affiliation, 91% of Democrats and 54% of Republicans are in favor. (Source: [Pew Research Center](#))
2. **Deep roots in communities drive local economic growth.** DACA recipients and their families have spent multiple decades in their communities, working, supporting their friends and neighbors, attending school, and starting businesses. Individuals eligible for DACA together earn \$25.5 billion in total household income each year and contribute \$5.9 billion of that income to federal, state, and local taxes that keep our metro areas moving. Overall the DACA eligible population makes up \$19.4 billion in spending power. Nearly 95% of the DACA eligible population is employed. (Source: [New American Economy](#))
3. **Limiting the program would negatively impact entire communities and deprive cities of DACA eligible populations' contributions.** Data from the [Cato Institute](#) estimates that deporting individuals who already have DACA status would cost the federal government over \$60 billion, with an additional \$280 billion in lost economic growth over the next decade.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Direct DACA Beneficiaries to Application Renewal Resources and Share Current Information

- Currently, the Department of Homeland Security
 -  **will not** accept first-time DACA applications and
 - will not** accept any advance parole applications (unless under exceptional circumstances)
- DACA renewals: the duration of deferred action and employment authorization has been reduced from two years to one year.
 -  **Note:** Given the ongoing litigation challenging DHS's July 28 DACA memo as well as the upcoming change in presidential administration, it is important to keep up to date with the latest developments to the DACA program and eligibility. This resource will be updated regularly to best reflect ongoing changes.

Review Local Policy Recommendations

- **Immigrant Legal Resource Center** provides a great resource titled: "Local Options for Protecting Immigrants: [A Collection of City & County Policies to Protect Immigrants from Discrimination and Deportation](#)." It includes examples of local policies that help protect immigrants from deportation by: (1) reducing arrests, (2) protecting constitutional rights, and (3) appropriating local resources wisely.
- **Vera Institute of Justice** has a resource guide to help local leaders provide protections for immigrants during COVID-19: "[How Local Leaders Can Ensure Immigrant Justice During COVID-19 Guidance Brief](#)."
- **Voice for Refuge** has a series of toolkits providing guidance for state and local policies related to [inclusive responses to COVID-19](#). Two key sections are (1) Protect Our Neighbors from

Deportation and Family Separation and (2) Provide Robust Economic Relief to All Working Families and Small Businesses.



View [sample policy recommendations](#) as listed by ILRC and United We Dream.

Share the Cities for DACA Community Resource Guide



In addition to the above action items, we highly encourage you to share Cities for Action's toolkit for DACA recipients and impacted communities: [Cities for DACA | Community Resource Guide](#).

Become a Cities for Action Coalition Member

Pledge your support and [get involved](#) as we work with municipalities nationwide to implement programs to welcome and include our immigrant residents and raise awareness for them at the federal level.

SPEAK UP AND INFORM THE NARRATIVE | CITIES FOR DACA ADVOCACY TOOLS

As part of the [Cities for DACA](#) campaign, Cities for Action has developed a broad range of Digital Advocacy Tools to help business leaders, mayors, county executives, and elected officials take bold action in support of immigrants in their local jurisdictions. These Digital Advocacy Tools help impacted communities inform the public narrative on DACA by highlighting the stories of DACA recipients and the positive impacts that they and their families have on local communities across the country, as well as the negative consequences of leaving DACA recipients without a permanent solution. This campaign seeks to educate decision makers and raise awareness about the DACA program amongst local elected leaders by amplifying the voices of DACA recipients and allies in positions of political and business leadership, and weaving together economic, personal, and community-based voices with macro- and micro-level data.

The following sections detail further actions you can take to increase awareness and support.

Uplift Key Messages (Talking Points)

Keep families and communities together

- DACA recipients have grown up and established lives as members of and contributors to communities across the country.
- Without a permanent solution, thousands of families remain exposed to the risk of separations and upheaval.

Keep our commerce and economy strong

- Local jurisdictions, industries, and higher education institutions are invested in DACA recipients. Limiting the program would weaken returns on these investments.
- DACA recipients make important contributions to state and local economies, as well as to our civic culture. Excluding DACA recipients from the labor force may result in the loss of \$215 billion in economic activity and an associated \$60 billion in federal tax revenue over the next ten years.

- More than 200,000 DACA recipients are on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic providing essential services. This includes 29,000 health care workers.
- A diverse group of mayors and county executives support DACA. Local leaders know how the DACA program has allowed recipients to build lives and contribute to communities and workplaces. Not providing a permanent solution would have consequences not just for recipients, but also for their children, families, and employers. DACA recipients contribute to state/local budgets with their tax contributions, and support economies with their spending power. Excluding DACA and excluding DACA recipients from the lawful labor force may result in the loss of \$3.1 billion annually in state and local taxes.

Support justice for all

- DACA has broad public support. A recent [poll](#) across 12 battleground states demonstrated 72% of all voters supported citizenship for Dreamers, including 72% of swing voters, 69% of Independents, and 57% of Republicans.
- DACA recipients and immigrant youth clearly won at the Supreme Court. Yet, the Trump Administration has put the lives of DACA recipients in jeopardy with relentless attacks on DACA against the backdrop of clear polling that shows a majority of the American public wants DACA to continue. This support occurs as our country confronts a huge increase in COVID-19 cases, and while more than 200,000 DACA recipients are working on the frontlines.



[Click here](#) to view these points in greater detail.

Write an Op-ed

We believe you have an important voice to speak to the power of DACA and a unique perspective to bring to the conversation in support of DACA. Cities for Action encourages you to transform your knowledge of and concern for your city's DACA community into a compelling op-ed of your own making. **We are ready to support your outreach however you need. [Reach out to our team](#) today to start the process.**

Examples (Mayoral Op-Eds on DACA):


- [5/29/2020 – “Commentary: Mayor Lori Lightfoot: Chicago has led the nation in supporting DACA recipients”](#)
- [6/22/2020 – “Coffman: The Supreme Court let Dreamers stay. Now Congress needs to make it permanent”](#)
- [6/29/2020 – “Op-ed: Houston mayor explains how Dreamers take care of us during a crisis”](#)

Leverage Data to Support Outreach and Policy Recommendations


- **New American Economy's** financial data on [Undocumented Immigrants & DACA-Eligible People](#)
- [Overcoming the Odds: Contributions of DACA-Eligible Immigrants to the U.S. Economy](#)
- **New American Economy's** data on [DACA Eligible People in Healthcare](#)
- **New American Economy's** [Spotlight on DACA-Eligible Population](#)
- **Center for American Progress's** profile of [DACA recipients on frontlines of the coronavirus response](#)
- **Pew Research Center's** findings [Americans Broadly Support Legal Status for Immigrants Brought to the United States Illegally as Children](#)

- **Informed Immigrant's:** [The crucial role of immigrants in COVID-10](#) and [Immigrants are critical in the Fight Against Covid-19](#)

Follow on Social Media

Follow Cities for Action:  Facebook: [@CitiesforAction](#) //  Twitter: [@CitiesforAction](#)

We've created a number of community-facing social media graphics and sample copy that you can tailor to your community. Please follow us, drive conversation, and share them within your networks.

 [Click here](#) to access additional, ready-to-post graphics, accompanying post language, and the campaign logo.

Use Hashtags

Use the following hashtags when referencing Cities for DACA on social:

All things DACA:


#DACAdoes
#CitiesforDACA
#withDACA
#daca

Narrative driven:

#dacamented
#heretostay
#homeishere
#familiesbelongtogether

Twitter Quick Reference Guide


Want to mention a Cities for Action member city in your next tweet?

 [Here's a quick list](#) detailing Twitter handles of cities represented in the Cities for Action coalition.

Watch the Videos

The Cities for DACA video series highlights the lived experiences, stories, and contributions of DACA recipients throughout the country, ultimately showcasing what #DACADOES and why America—and all Americans—need DACA.

Cities for DACA will be sharing this series via their website: <http://www.citiesforaction.us/citiesforDACA>. We encourage you to check out the videos, comment, and share them with your networks.



CITIES for ACTION

Cities for DACA is an initiative of Cities for Action.
For more information, visit www.citiesforaction.us.