



POST-ELECTION INFORMATION FOR THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

November 2016

**President-elect Trump will not take office until January 20, 2017.
Current programs and policies remain in place until that time.
It is unclear what changes the new President will make.**

DACA: CURRENT STATUS AND OPTIONS

President-elect Trump pledged to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) when he becomes President. Until that time, DACA will remain in place and USCIS will continue to process both initial and renewal DACA applications.

Initial DACA Applications

- *It is not recommended to apply for DACA for the first time at this time.*

The processing of those applications takes several months and will likely not be completed before January 20, 2017.

DACA Renewals

- *DACA recipients eligible to renew who wish to apply should do so immediately after consulting with a trusted legal service provider.*

Some DACA renewals are being processed in as quickly as 8 weeks.

Renewing *may* mean a DACA recipient can have a work permit for one or two more years. The main risk is that the renewal might not be decided before January 20, 2017 and the applicant will lose the application fee. There is no guarantee that USCIS will process your renewal before January 20, 2017.

- It is unknown whether the next Administration will terminate existing DACA grants or let them expire and not allow DACA recipients to renew.
- For information about loans or help with application costs: Mission Asset Fund (<http://missionassetfund.org/lending-circles-for-dreamers/>), Self-Help Federal Credit

Union (<http://www.self-helpfcu.org/personal/loans/immigration-loans>), some Mexican Consulates, or local DACA service providers.

Advance Parole

- *Anyone travelling on advance parole through DACA should return to the United States before January 20, 2017.*
- It is not recommended to apply for regular advance parole through DACA by mail at this time because the travel document will likely not be issued until February 2017 or later.
- Emergency advance parole requests, which are filed in person at the USCIS office, may still be processed in time. Evidence that travel is for an emergency reason must be submitted. If granted, travel should be completed by January 20, 2017.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

- **Consult with an attorney or trusted legal service provider to understand your legal options and if you might be eligible for an immigration benefit.**
 - Find low-cost immigration legal services: <https://www.immigrationlawhelp.org>.
 - Avoid fraudulent service providers: confirm their credentials, ask for a written contract and a receipt for any payments, and if you have doubts, get a second opinion. For more information <https://www.ilrc.org/anti-fraud-flyers>.
- **Avoid negative contact with law enforcement. A DUI or conviction related to drugs can have negative immigration consequences. Contact with law enforcement can result in exposure to the immigration authorities.**
- **If you have a criminal record, consult an expert. Certain convictions can be changed to lessen the impact on a future immigration case.**
- **Know your rights. Everyone, regardless of their status, has constitutional rights before the immigration authorities.**

Remain Silent: Don't respond to the questions of an immigration agent or provide any personal information.

Don't Open Your Door: If agents come to your home, ask that a search warrant be passed under your door or shown through a window. You lose certain rights by allowing agents in to your home.

Don't Sign Anything: In case of detention, don't sign any document. Ask to speak with an attorney and for a hearing in immigration court.
