**DACA: What You Should Know**

# What is DACA? Introduction and Overview

DACA is an immigration category for certain people who came to the United States as children. There are other factors that affect eligibility, such as criminal history. People who receive DACA are temporarily protected against being removed from the U.S. and can get work authorization.

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| **As of December 4th, you can now apply for DACA for the first time and existing DACA beneficiaries can renew.** |

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# Applying for and Renewing DACA

People can now submit initial DACA applications as well as renew DACA. You can renew your DACA even after it has expired.

# DACA: Current Situation *(Updated December 2020)*

By order of a United States District Court, DHS Acting Secretary Chad Wolf’s memo suspending the DACA program, has been invalidated and set aside. This change is effective immediately and DHS is accepting new applications. In addition, work permits are valid for 2 years, and DACA recipients are eligible to apply for Advance Parole. **If your DACA is expiring sometime within the next year, you should consider filing a renewal now. If your DACA already expired, consider renewing.**

# DACA Approval

**People who are granted DACA are temporarily protected from removal or deportation from the U.S.** and can receive work authorization. DACA, and the work authorization, are usually granted for 2 years at a time.

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| **FAQs**  **What if I have a criminal history?** Anyone who has a criminal history, or has ever been arrested, should consult with CLA or another experienced immigration lawyer before applying. You may not be eligible, and it may put you at risk for deportation if you apply and get denied. **Can I travel outside of the U.S. if I have DACA?**Maybe. Currently, DACA beneficiaries can apply for Advance Parole to travel outside the U.S. USCIS will consider these applications on a case-by-case basis. Please consult an attorney and do not travel unless you have been granted Advance Parole. **Will I get a Green Card if I have been approved for DACA?**DACA does not directly lead to a green card. However, anyone who has DACA should evaluate whether they have other immigration options that could lead to a green card, such as having a close relative who is already a U.S. Citizen or green card holder who can sponsor you. If you have questions, contact CLA for an evaluation of possible immigration options. |