



Updated February 18, 2014

The DACA Renewal Process: The Facts So Far

USCIS has not issued any official guidance on their renewal process yet. We expect the official forms and procedures for nearly all people with DACA to be released sometime around the month of April, 2014.

Only people granted Deferred Action by ICE while in detention or removal proceedings can renew their Deferred Action Status at this time. See below for more on this.

The information below reflects the United We Dream Network's best intelligence on the renewal process and what every DREAMer needs to know at this time. United We Dream will be working hard in Washington and around the country to advocate for a more open and accessible renewal process – we hope to update this fact sheet with improvements to the process over the coming months!

Sign up for the DACA Renewal Network – www.UnitedWeDream.org/DACArenewal -- for reminders -- customized for YOUR case – so you know exactly what to do and when to do it.

DREAMers won Deferred Action and will do everything we can to ensure that you can keep it!

Can I renew my DACA now?

- **No.** USCIS has only released their *DRAFT* DACA renewal form. The form to fill out will not be ready until approximately April of this year– the DACA Renewal Network will let you know when your window is, exactly what to do and give you reminders to do it.
- The **ONLY** exception to this rule is the **SMALL** group of people who received their **Deferred Action from ICE before August 15, 2012**. If you received your DACA after August 15, 2012, you can **NOT** renew your DACA at this time.

When do I need to apply?

- *Everyone will have a different “renewal window”* to submit your application depending on your expiration date. Your window may *only be open for one month* – don't miss it.
- *Don't apply too early:* we believe that USCIS will recommend applying about 4 months before your DACA expires.
- *Don't apply too late:* You should apply no later than 3 months before it expires in order to ensure that your DACA will be renewed before your expiration date.
- Sign up for the DACA Renewal Network – www.UnitedWeDream.org/DACArenewal -- to be sure you know when your window is and don't miss it.

What happens if I apply earlier than the recommended date?

- USCIS may reject your submission and return it to you with instructions to resubmit your application closer to the expiration.

What happens if I apply later than the recommended date, but before my DACA expires?

- You may fall out of status for some period of time while USCIS processes and makes a decision on your renewal application.
- It is unclear whether you will accrue time in unlawful presence during that time, but we expect that you will.
- It is unclear whether USCIS will grant an automatic extension of work authorization after an applicant applies for DACA, but before USCIS has fully processed the application.

Will I have to pay a fee?

- YES – START SAVING
- As of now, the DACA renewal process is expected to cost \$465 (including the fee for your employment authorization document and your biometrics).
- Fee exemptions: Currently, only very limited categories of youth are eligible for such an exemption however, fee exemption criteria may change during the renewal process – United We Dream is working hard to expand it.
- Fee exemption criteria: If you are low-income, and you are either (a) homeless, in foster care or otherwise lack parental or familial support, or (b) or have over \$25,000 of medical debt or (c) you have a serious, chronic disability, you may be eligible for a fee exemption. You should determine whether you qualify for such an exemption based on the criteria outlined on USCIS' website. If you qualify, you should start gathering the supporting documentation listed on USCIS' website to file for a fee exemption.

What documents do I need to gather to prepare for my application?

- We anticipate that most people will not need to provide more supporting evidence with your renewal application. We expect that USCIS will rely on the statements that you make on your renewal application.
- You will not need to re-submit the documents that you submitted with your original application.
- However, it is possible that USCIS might request additional evidence regarding the circumstances of your case. This is likely to occur for some complicated cases.
- You may also be required to present documentary evidence to support your request for financial assistance.

Will I have to get my biometrics done again?

- Yes, biometrics will be required in order to get your DACA renewed. You will have to pay the standard \$85 biometrics fee again unless you are eligible for financial assistance (included in the \$465 total cost).
- We expect that you will be required to submit some biometric information with your initial renewal application.

What if I already graduated from school?

- If you graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States before you received your DACA, you no longer need to show school enrollment in order to qualify for a renewal of DACA.
- If you have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or were an honorably discharged veteran

of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States, since or after you received your DACA, you will need to show that you completed your educational requirement in order to qualify for a renewal.

If I completed an education, literacy, or career training program that didn't result in a GED or high school degree, what will I need to show?

- Some people qualified for DACA because they were enrolled in an education, literacy, or career training program (including vocational training) that is designed to lead to placement in postsecondary education, job training, or employment, where they were working toward such placement.
- If you have completed such a program, you may have to show that you have enrolled in the postsecondary education or job training program or have obtained the employment that your initial program was intended to place you in.

What if I haven't finished high school or a general educational program yet?

- If you haven't graduated yet, you are eligible for a renewal while you are enrolled. **Don't drop out of school!**
- If you have dropped out of school or an educational program, you will generally not be eligible for a renewal unless you sign up for a new or different educational program.

What if I failed a class?

- If you have failed a class but have made progress in others and are still enrolled in school, you will generally be eligible for a DACA renewal. However, you should reference the FAQ's related to education on USCIS' website to make sure that you have made the necessary progress in your program.

What if I dropped out of school?

- If you dropped out of school – re-enroll or register for classes NOW.

If I have been convicted of an offense since I got DACA, can I renew my status?

- It depends. If possible, you should check with an attorney about your case before applying for a DACA renewal.

Will I need a lawyer to apply for a renewal? When should I seek the help of a lawyer?

- Most individuals will not need legal assistance to reapply.
- However, individuals with criminal convictions will likely have to rely on legal advice to determine if they are still eligible for DACA.
- In addition, individuals who have any criminal history –including those who have been arrested or charged with an offense but who were not convicted of a crime – may have to provide additional documentation about that history. These individuals might benefit from legal advice in determining what documentation to provide to USCIS.
- In some cases, individuals who have had difficulty making progress in their educational programs might also benefit from legal advice.

Stay tuned and sign up to the DACA Renewal Network for updates about:

- Working with your employer through the renewal process
- Financial assistance available to you

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- Sign up and ask your friends to sign up too sign up! www.UnitedWeDream.org/DACArenewal

More questions about DACA?

- Please visit the Own the Dream Campaign at (855) DREAM-31 or www.WeOwnTheDream.org