



Updated April 11, 2014

The DACA Renewal Process: **The Facts So Far**

USCIS has not issued the final official guidance on their renewal process yet. We expect the official forms and procedures for nearly all people with DACA to be released towards the end of May, 2014.

Only people granted DACA by ICE while in detention or removal proceedings can renew their DACA 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. USCIS has announced it will not release the final form and process until late May, 2014. You cannot file now, USCIS will not accept renewal filings until the new version of the form is published. The DACA Renewal Network will let you know when your window is, exactly what to do and give you reminders to do it.
- Go on USCIS's website to see their official announcement:
<http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-process>
- The **ONLY** exception to this rule is the **SMALL** group of people who received their **DACA from ICE before August 15, 2012**. If you received your DACA after August 15, 2012, you can **NOT** renew your DACA at this time.

Will USCIS inform me or contact me about how to submit my renewal application?

- Probably not. At this point they have no plans to contact DACA applicants to inform them on the renewal process.
- That's why you should sign up to the "DACA Renewal Network" to keep updated on you DACA renewal timeline and make sure you know what to do and when!
www.UnitedWeDream.org/DACArenewal

When do I need to apply?

- *Everyone will have a different "renewal timeframe" to submit your application depending on your expiration date. Your guaranteed timeframe may be open for about 30 days – don't miss it.*

- *Don't apply too early:* USCIS recommends you submit your DACA renewal application approximately 120 days (or 4 months) before your current period of DACA expires. It will not accept requests made earlier than 150 days (or 5 months) before that expiration date.
- *Don't apply too late:* As noted above, we suggest that you apply no later than 4 months before your DACA expires in order to ensure that your DACA will be renewed on time. If you apply too close to your expiration date you may not get your renewal approved before your current DACA expires. If you submit your application between 150 days and 120 days prior to your expiration date, and USCIS does not adjudicate your application on time, USCIS may extend your employment authorization and deferred action until your renewal is adjudicated.
- Sign up for the DACA Renewal Network – www.UnitedWeDream.org/DACArenewal -- to be sure you know when your renewal timeframe 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 too close to my DACA expiration date?

- USCIS has not yet confirmed what will happen if your DACA expires before USCIS makes a decision about your renewal application.
- However, UWD will continue to advocate for more improvements in the renewal process to make the process easier and more accessible, such as a stopgap measure to ensure that Dreamers don't experience a gap or fall out of status between their expiration date and renewal notification.

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 are likely to 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?

- Most people will not need to provide more supporting evidence with your renewal application. 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 DACA application.
- You only need to submit new documents pertaining to removal proceedings or criminal history that you have not already submitted to USCIS.

- It is important that you do not make statements on your renewal application that are inconsistent with your original DACA application. Take this time to find the copy of your original DACA application, so that you can be ready.
- 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).

What if I already graduated from school before I applied for DACA the first time?

- 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 I completed an education, literacy, or career training program or a GED or high school degree since I applied for DACA the first time, what will I need to show?

- Nothing. Your continued eligibility for DACA will be presumed in this case.

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

- You will NOT need to show substantial, measureable progress in your program. Your continued eligibility for DACA will be presumed in this case.

What if I failed a class?

- You will NOT need to show substantial, measureable progress in your program. Your continued eligibility for DACA will be presumed in this case.

What if I dropped out of high school?

- You will not be required to submit any education-related information on your renewal application, and will not be required to meet the education requirement upon renewal.

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.

Do 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.

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
- 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