



United We Dream



OWNING THE DREAM

**TWO YEARS OF THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS PROGRAM.
DREAMERS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS TAKING THE LEAD FROM START TO FINISH.**

FEATURED STORIES

**"I'VE HAD
SO MANY NEW
OPPORTUNITIES."
- Sheridan A, TX**



**"AS A NEW TEACHER
I'M HAPPY TO BE ABLE
TO GIVE BACK"
- Mariza O, CT**

A report by **United We Dream**



2-Year Deferred Action (DACA) Anniversary

Immigrant Youth Taking the Lead from Start to Finish

Two years ago, undocumented young people (Dreamers) began applying for the new Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA). DACA was a victory that was won by our movement, by the dreamers and allies who led a grassroots campaign to win it. Over half a million young people now hold a work permit and are protected from deportation by this two-year, renewable program.

Today, there is a lot to celebrate, plenty of lessons to be learned and much more work to do.

The urgency to engage in implementation work is higher than ever before. Hundreds of thousands of Dreamers need to renew their DACA this year and there are many more who still aren't protected. Additionally, we may be on the eve of implementing a similar relief package for our families, in which Dreamers will play a critical role.

The campaign for DACA was rooted in lived experiences of undocumented youth who shared deeply personal stories with each other and the world, dared to speak truth to power and engaged in a thoughtful strategic plan to win and then implement the program.

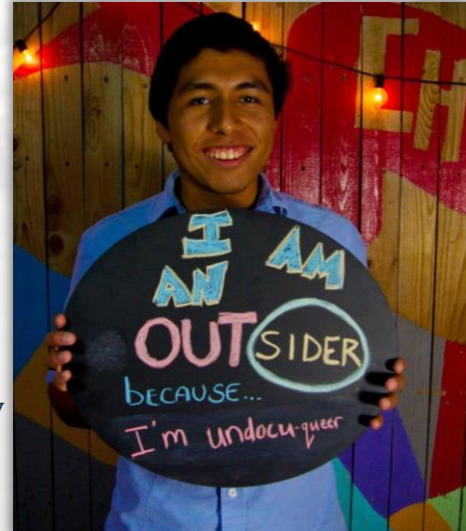
The Own the Dream campaign (OTD) is the only national legalization implementation program in the country. OTD is led by Dreamers at UWD and works hand in glove with a collaborative of national legal experts to bring the best of the field together with the national expertise to innovate and deliver. None of us can do this work alone and our national legal partners are key to the project's success.

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UWD is a network committed to creating a world in which everyone in our communities can live without fear and with a strong sense of themselves and their collective power.

Our DACA application assistance events are spaces in which a young mom; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) teen; construction worker or valedictorian are invited to celebrate their own life story, share their struggles and leave the pain behind.

This report primarily highlights the work of UWD though OTD partners have made invaluable additional contributions to DACA implementation.



“I’ve had so many new opportunities.”

Sherida Lagunas Aguirre - TX



“As a new teacher I’m so happy to be able to give back to my community”

Mariza M. Davila Orosco - CT



Over a Half Million Lives Changed

Data from USCIS

587,366

Approved DACA Applications

20,311

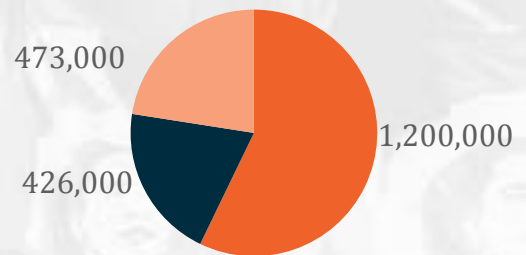
Denied DACA Applications

In the past 2 years **over 680,000 immigrant youth** have applied for DACA. A staggering **587,366 (as of July 20, 2014) have been approved** and are safe from deportation, have a work permit and are able to live without fear. Their lives have been changed and they can now achieve their dreams in ways they never thought possible.

Collectively, these young people and their families, have paid over \$300 million in fees to administer DACA, however, value of this program to the Dreamers is immeasurable

But many more need to be protected. A recent study by the Migration Policy Institute, found that about **2.1 million total** people could potentially be eligible for DACA. 1.2 million were immediately eligible when DACA started, another **426,000** could become eligible if they fulfill DACA's educational requirements and **473,000** will age in age-in to DACA eligibility when they turn 15.

Total Potential DACA Eligible Numbers



- Immediately Eligible in 2012
- Potentially Eligible, if meet Education Req
- Age in when turn 15



Renewals Begin...

Its hard to believe we've reached the 2-year anniversary of DACA! As we celebrate this milestone, we are also faced with the challenge of renewals. Hundreds of thousands of DACA-mented youth must apply for a renewal of status in the coming months- **400,000 before January 2015**. A challenge indeed, but one that OTD is uniquely poised to meet.



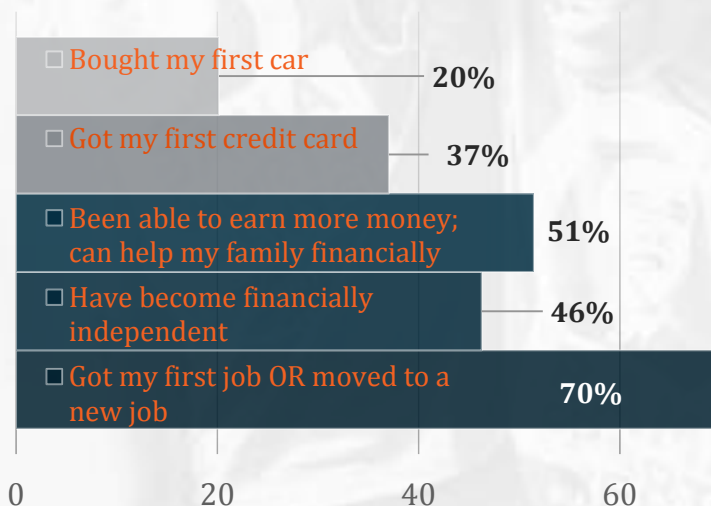


A Dream No Longer Deferred: Opportunities, Change, and Challenges

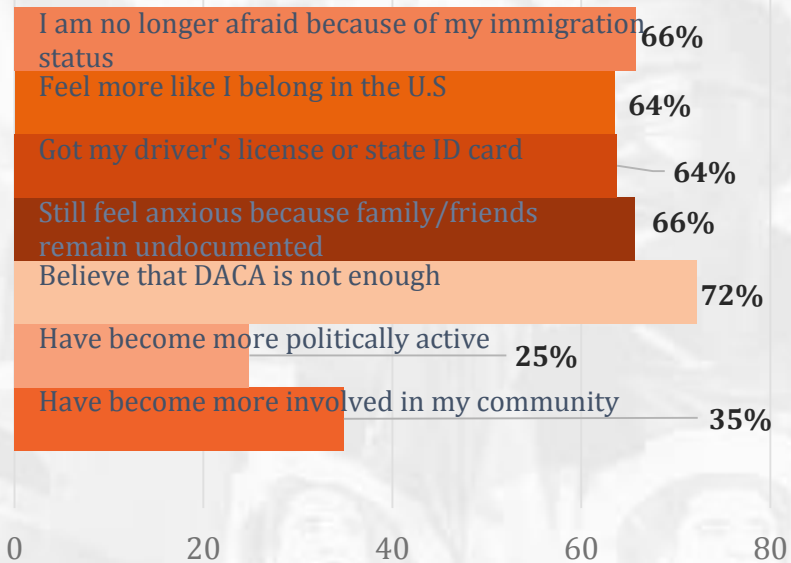
The impact of DACA on Dreamer's lives cannot be understated. The program has fundamentally changed the lives of over a half million Dreamers and their families. United We Dream's national survey of over 1,400 Dreamers, conducted by Professor Tom Wong of the University of California San Diego and United We Dream, reveals that **DACA is an integration success story** and a catalyst for economic growth.

Now that new doors are open for youth, we must also open those doors for their families and create policies to address inequities in the labor market, increase wages, combat exploitative employers and provide critical training for the transition into the formal economy.

Economic Life After DACA



Identity & Belonging Post-DACA



"I am happy that I've been given an opportunity to work legally, but I feel they are just offering us a small piece of the whole cake. There is still fear about my parents, friends and family."

"I was able to receive a Research Assistant position that funds my Ph.D. education and supports me financially. Moreover, I finally discovered tranquility in my life. I no longer have to fear deportation and risking losing contact with my daughter."

"Finally was able to put my degree to use. 3 years after graduating from college, I was still holding my high school job at McDonalds. 6 months after getting DACAmented, I was finally able to get a full-time permanent job at Bloomberg."



Our Events: Making Dreams Come True, One DACA Applicant a Time

Own the Dream's work is **led by Dreamers** in communities in which they live. There is nothing like having someone who shares the undocumented experience be the one encouraging and guiding you through your application. The common undocumented experience shared by clients and volunteers at our clinics allows us to create culturally competent outreach and services. **The peer-to-peer connection** is what makes OTD work.

Our field teams provided DACA application help some **23,186 times** and **39,083 people** attended our events. Over the past two years we have worked with our teams, UWD affiliates and allied groups across the country to make the dream of DACA a reality.

39,083

Participants in our DACA events

23,186

Got help with their DACA application



Own the Dream Clinic Snapshot:

- OTD provided DACA application assistance **23,186 times**
- Most of those served live in **large households** with low incomes
- Most are teens “aging-in” to DACA eligibility
- Most have lived in U.S. longer than 10 years
- 95% came to fill out their **first DACA application**
- Even since DACA renewals began, the majority remain first time applicants
- Most applicants we serve are **women**

12.00%

10.00%

8.00%

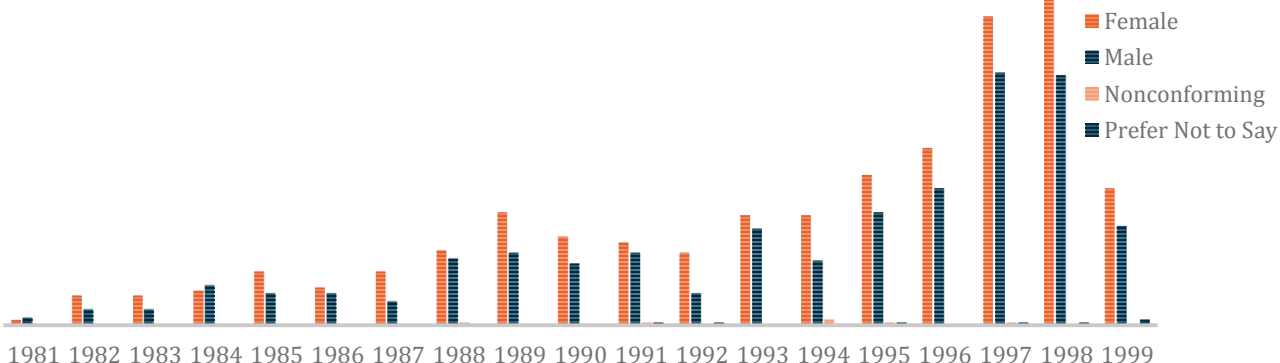
6.00%

4.00%

2.00%

0.00%

AGE AND GENDER OF APPLICANTS





Prioritizing Education & Outreach

Our organizers have found that one of the primary reasons for people not applying is that they simply don't have accurate information. Our field teams educate parents and young people every day at schools, churches and community events and our innovative, one of a kind online portal- **DreamConnect** - helps Dreamers to find the help they need.



Every one of the Dreamers and family members we reach will be key to educating yet more people about DACA, renewals and expanded administrative relief for families in the future.

97,331 = 58,248 + 39,083

Total People educated

Signed-up online

Attended grassroots event

THE DACA RENEWAL FORM IS OUT!

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW!

1 STAY CALM
we're here to help and support you.



2 REGISTER!
for the DACA Renewal Network for your personal DACA renewal plan!

DACARENEWAL.ORG

3 PREPARE!
Start saving \$465, & get a copy of your original DACA application

 + 

4 SHARE!
this graphic to spread the word!



United We Dream

- 58,248 people educated via email, text, webinars, videos, and social media
- DACA email contact network of 23,361
- DACA text message network of 22,253
- 1,568,303 unique users reached on Facebook with DACA education
- Live online broadcast audience of over 10,000

Community Education Innovations

The **DACA Renewal Network** is an innovative online alert and notification system for Dreamers. Powered by our **DreamConnect data engine**, DRN provides customized emails, text alerts and phone calls to remind families about deadlines, direct them to application tools, attorneys and more. DRN also connects Dreamers with the national network of their peers – UWD.



(www.DACArenewal.org)



Serving Dreamers, Parents and Whole Communities

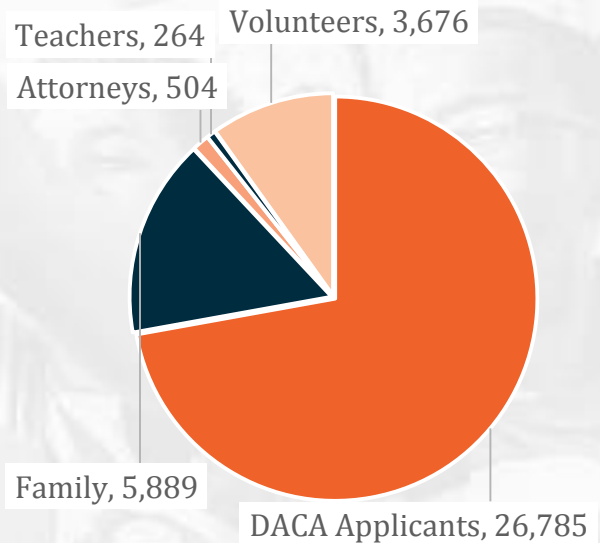
DACA is a family affair and a total of **5,889 family members and friends of Dreamers** attended our events - individuals who may be eligible for expanded administrative relief.



Own the Dream gatherings aren't "clinics" in the traditional sense, our events have a comprehensive engagement plan to spark **self awareness, empowerment and opportunity**. All those who participate leave with an understanding of the role that immigrant youth like them played in creating the DACA program and that they can play a critical role in winning the same relief for their parents.

United We Dream values freedom and justice for everyone which is why we create spaces where Dreamers can truly be who they are. Where they can **be undocumented and queer**, a dropout and/or a graduate, a mom or a teen and feel welcomed and not alone anymore. Our community events **provide life changing experiences** for folks that have always been in hiding.

Who Attends our Events?





Technology Innovations for our Community

Partner Built Online and Mobile Tools

OTD's national partners have developed cutting-edge tools for Dreamers at zero cost to them. **The Immigrant Advocates Network**, with contributions of partners and Dreamers, built and manages **WeOwnTheDream.org** which is the hub of DACA resources with free screening and application tools available to anyone. IAN, along with AILA and AIC have also built PocketDACA, a cool mobile app with access to everything a DACAmented Dreamer needs to know.

DreamConnect - Developed by UWD's Dreamer Technologists

DreamConnect is a one-of-a-kind database, constituency management, eligibility screening and event tool built for community and volunteer groups to use – even those without technical expertise or hardware budgets.

DreamConnect also enables over 20,000 (and growing) individual members to get personalized reminders, **help with their DACA case** and connected to peers and educational opportunities via text, email, phone calls and social media.



PocketDACA Mobile App



Own the Dream Website
www.weownthedream.org



Clinic registration via
DreamConnect system



Our DACA Stories: Rodrigo Trejo

My name is Rodrigo Trejo, and I'm 20 years old. I'm from Tamaulipas, Mexico, a place I have little recollection about since my departure from Mexico to the U.S. when I was six years old. Adapting wasn't so difficult, I picked up the English language at a fast pace due to my eagerness to learn new things. I would get picked on once in a while because of my broken English, but that only motivated me.

When I was in the 11th grade my step dad was deported, but he had a conversation with me before he was sent back to Mexico. He told me that I was going to have to be the man of the house because he didn't think he was ever coming back. I didn't know what he was trying to say at the time, until he passed away crossing the U.S. border trying to come back. He couldn't bear to be away from his family.

When I received the news that my step dad passed away, I fell into depression because I had lost my father figure. At the same time, I felt uncertain about continuing high school, because I did not know undocumented students could go to college. These two events led me to drop out of school.

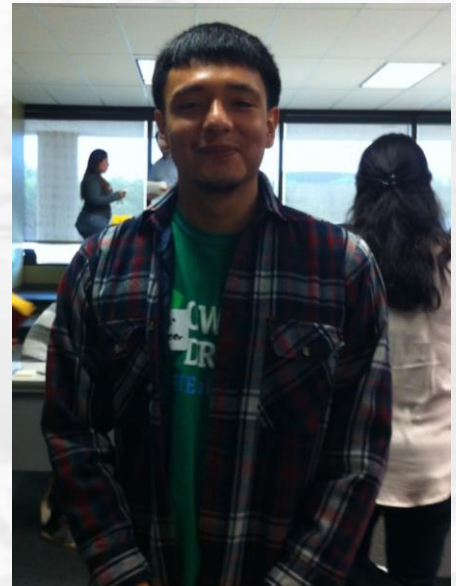
“I am no longer scared to say I'm undocumented.”

Rodrigo Trejo - TX

When I was out of school I tried to get a job but because of my undocumented status, most places rejected me. I soon realized I made a huge mistake by dropping out, so at the age of 19, I decided to go back to school and I graduated in 2014 at the age of 20.

I heard about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, from family members and I applied because of the opportunity that it brings to those of us who want to continue our education. I am motivated by knowing that I can get a job after earning a degree, which would be a big achievement. After attending the DACA clinics I am no longer scared to say I'm undocumented. I plan to continue my studies and want to help others who have the potential of becoming someone great but because of similar life circumstances, don't believe in themselves. In the next three years I see myself working, and graduating college with a bachelor's degree in business.

Rodrigo is an Own the Dream Fellow in Houston after completing a 4-week training course.





Developing the Next Generation of Social Change Leaders

United We Dream is a pipeline for **leadership development**. Through our DACA implementation work, hundreds of young people have been given invaluable training on how to deliver excellent service to our members AND which will provide them with skills needed for **high quality jobs** in the future.

65% of our teams have DACA and 75% are immigrants. Our leaders manage staff and volunteer teams of hundreds and program budgets of hundreds of thousands of dollars. They have built cutting edge data and technology systems, brokered high level partnerships in their communities and have served tens of thousands.



Trainings, Coaching at a Glance

- 337 trained on DACA implementation
- 137 trained on program development, staff and budget management, conflict resolution and more
- 420 coaching sessions for field staff
- 25 in-person field trainings
- 7 online broadcasts and webinars

Snapshot: Oscar Hernandez, Lead DACA Field Organizer, Houston, TX

Engagement, training, professional development:

- 60 hours of management coaching
- Own the Dream professional staff training
- Manager's trainings by the Management Center

August 2013:

- Received his DACA
- Managed a landscaping business

Today:

- Salaried employee with full benefits as part of the Own the Dream Houston Team
- Manages staff and volunteer team of 11
- Planned BIA accreditation in 2015





National Legal Partners

The Own the Dream Campaign brings together the **best of the field with the best national experts** to provide our members with the highest quality service possible.

Own the Dream brings the expertise of our national partners directly to where they're needed - the communities we serve. The backbone of Own the Dream is the connection of Dream leaders and these experts in a collaborative called the National Legal Implementation Strategy Team (NLIST).

These partners, together with UWD's legal staff and organizers have created **standard applicant screening forms, training curricula, public education materials and more**. And because community driven implementation work is new, we have jointly identified the myriad of challenges and opportunities which have emerged from this new approach.

The **National Legal Implementation Strategy Team (NLIST)** consists of:

- American Immigration Council
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, INC.
- Immigration Advocates Network
- National Association of Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund
- National Immigration Law Center
- National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
- United We Dream Network

In addition to providing help at the national level, the DACA staff and legal fellows of our NLIST partners have provided **direct assistance** to our teams and have, even served as supervising attorneys in the field!

Partners have also developed **innovative web tools and mobile apps**, operated a **national toll free DACA hotline** to connect the community to tools, information, events and much more. As national experts, NLIST collaborative participants have also created a bevy of **legal practice advisories** and have together defined the "gold standard" of legal service provision.





Partnership Snapshot: Mexican Consular Network

Strategic partnerships have been a crucial part of our work. One of our most successful partnerships have been with the **Mexican Consular Network**.

Since the announcement of DACA, United We Dream has worked closely with the Embassy of Mexico to ensure that young people and families have the identification documents and information they need. Together, we hosted "**National Dream Day at the Consulate**" just days after the DACA announcement and our teams are currently educating families and screening youth at Consulate facilities every week. Since then, our collaborative efforts have resulted in thousands of people educated on DACA and numerous co-hosted events. Our partnership is **local at heart** and our field teams have developed deep and long-lasting relationships with consular officials and staff.

"The Mexican Consulate has been very helpful and friendly with us on the ground. They have helped us host a DACA clinic at their location and we are currently collaborating on doing a Consulado Sobre Ruedas, where we will be helping DACA eligible youth with attaining their matriculate/passport. As a Mexican, I am happy to have the support of the Mexican Consulate and hope to expand our relationship to serve many more undocumented youth."

Oscar Hernandez – Houston, TX

"Working with the Mexican Consulate has been great - we are able to inform many people when we present at their events. They are always very supportive and looking for new ways in which we can collaborate. I feel proud of the efforts put forth to ensure that Mexican nationals are serviced and informed about resources that benefit them. "

Yadira Garcia – Arizona

*Local Outreach &
Education event
with the Mexican
Consulate.*





Partner Snapshot: PICO National Network

National and Local Leadership

A founding partner of the Own the Dream campaign, the PICO National Network has operated local DACA implementation sites in six cities.

Like UWD, PICO leaders are deeply committed to putting undocumented youth at the forefront of DACA implementation.

PICO's national DACA team and nearly all of their Own the Dream local field leaders are Dreamers or immigrants with permanent legal status who helped lead the Own the Dream campaign's trainings, shared best practices and were an integral part of campaign strategy from the start.

As a faith based organizations, PICO local federations provided invaluable insight to our campaign teams on how to best collaborate with religious leaders. As they have throughout the immigrant rights movement, PICO brought congregations into DACA implementation and have prepared them and our campaign for the implementation of administrative relief for families.



Together Colorado *Denver, CO & Statewide*

Inland Empire Congregations United for Change *Inland Empire, CA*

Faith in Florida *Tampa, FL Clearwater, FL Wimauma, FL Orlando, FL*



DACA Advocacy & Improving Policy



Advocacy Achievements:

- **Education documentation** dropped from DACA renewal process
- **Emergency extensions** for Dreamers during the renewal process
- Warning letters from USCIS to Dreamers at risk of DACA expiration
- Speedy DACA renewal process
- DACA holders now eligible for Federally funded **workforce programs**
- Legal clarification to facilitate **in-state tuition rates**

UWD is working to ensure that all Dreamers fully benefit from the DACA policy



Our DACA Advocacy Agenda:

- **Extend DACA** from two to five years
- Enable more DACAdmented youth to **travel**
- Remove the **age cap**
- Raise the age floor from **16 to 18 years old** at time of entry
- Reduce or **eliminate fees** for low income Dreamers
- Remove arbitrary **criminal bars** which disproportionately penalize young men and women of color





Overcoming Barriers To Apply

DACA's \$465 application fee poses a significant burden to immigrant families, especially with multiple children. 77% of immigrant youth in our survey reported annual personal incomes below \$25,000; only 20% reported having enough personal income to meet monthly bills and expenses., mirroring what we've found at our grassroots events where 76% of attendees reported household incomes below \$29,999.

Indeed, 36% of survey respondents say that the financial costs associated with DACA caused a delay in applying of an average of 3 months. The recurring nature of DACA will make it even more difficult for families- 51% say that a \$465 fee to renew DACA will impose a financial hardship.

The educational requirements of DACA also pose a challenge, around 426,000 people could become eligible if they fulfill the educational requirements. Many potentially eligible applicants require assistance in enrolling in GED programs or other educational programs to qualify for DACA.

Our leaders are helping Dreamers apply in innovative ways.

Education Help:

Many Dreamers don't meet DACA's education requirements. Our organizers aim to help those who aren't eligible to become eligible by connecting them with educational resources in their area.

Jose is a 26 year old Dreamer in Oklahoma. A married father of one (with another on the way!), Jose works as a plumber and machine operator. In 2012, Jose was mistakenly informed by co-workers that he didn't qualify for DACA because he didn't graduate from high school. But in 2014, Jose attended an info session hosted by Dream Act Oklahoma and learned that he could become eligible by enrolling in a GED program, which he did and went onto apply for this life changing opportunity.

DACA Scholarship Winner

Enrique Perez, WALK

City: Corona, NYC

Country of Birth: Mexico



When I was 17 I dropped out of high school and started work. At the time there was no DACA and I thought no hope. All that changed when DACA started. I'm now enrolled in GED classes and look forward to applying to DACA with this scholarship. Receiving this scholarship and eventually DACA means more than just a job, it means hope that I can continue to study for a higher education, it means a better future for my family educationally and financially.

Financial Help: UWD leaders have advised applicants on how they can crowdsource and use other grassroots organizing skills to defray some or all of their application costs. And our network affiliates and national structure have been able to secure funds for a modest number of DACA scholarships, which brought the otherwise unattainable dream of DACA to life.



Two Years of DACA Implementation and Ready for More

Own the Dream was built to help Dreamers with their DACA, strengthen the immigrant youth movement and develop models and data in order to assist ourselves, the non-profit sector, policymakers and philanthropists with improving our implementation of DACA and planning for the implementation of expanded administrative relief or legislative policy change.

Over the last two years, and as this report highlights, it has become evident that community-driven implementation work is an effective strategy to open the doors of opportunity and should be expanded.

It has also become evident that the credibility and reach of United We Dream – developed through years of public advocacy and grassroots campaigns – are transferable to service provision work.



Dreamers have a unique ability to both communicate to their peers and serve as a bridge between generations and they will play a critical role in implementing broader administrative relief when that victory becomes real.

But Dreamers and the advocacy sector cannot do this work alone.

In fact, no sector of the immigrant rights movement or service community, whether non-profit legal service providers, private attorneys, the government or business will be successful at implementing immigration policy change without intentional collaboration. We thank our national legal partners for working through a new collaboration with us in order to break new ground.

The national nature and collaborative model of the Own the Dream has enabled us to achieve efficiencies and consistency that would have been impossible for unconnected local efforts and United We Dream's commitment to empowerment and to developing meaningful and lasting connections has made the DACA application process inspiring for young people and families at a mass scale.

United We Dream began when seven undocumented leaders from across the country shared their stories with each other on a conference call. They then spoke out publicly and inspired yet others to “come out of the shadows” and celebrate their own stories, soon a movement was born.

While we are extremely proud of the metrics shared in this report, we are even more thrilled by the stories of the young people and parents who attend our events, connect with us online and who have entered into a new community of their peers.

Attend a United We Dream rally and you might hear young people chanting “We Ready, We Comin’.” Though the victory of broad administrative relief for millions more hasn't yet been won, United We Dream and the Own the Dream campaign team are ready for what's next and we welcome you to join us!

***“We Ready,
We Comin’!”***