

DREAM TOGETHER

Action Planning to Support DACA-eligible Students and
Advocating for a Permanent Solution



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
What is DACA?	4
Who is eligible?	4
How Has DACA Impacted the Lives of Recipients?	5
DACA and Our Campuses	6
Why We Must Act Now	7
Talking Points	8
Education	8
Economy	8
Inclusive Environments	9
Action: What Can You Do?	10
Campus Action Planning Sheet	11
Tabling Script	12
Forms	13
Letter to Congress	13
Student Story Collection Form	15
Frequently Asked Questions	19

Introduction

We at LeadMN strive to advocate for students and it is our mission to remove barriers to education. The recession of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) leaves over 700,000 people across the country with uncertain futures. This includes students who were allowed to attend school under the protections offered by DACA. LeadMN is organizing to collect letters to congress to adopt a permanent solution for DACA-eligible individuals and ensure that education is accessible to all.

Join us as we DREAM TOGETHER and advocate for the opportunity for all students to achieve their dreams and pursue their education.

What is DACA?

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), was created by the Obama Administration in 2012. DACA allowed certain people who were brought to the United States as children to request deferred action/protection from deportation, for a period of two years. DACA deferment could be renewed only once, and is not a path to citizenship.

Who is eligible?

Requirements to qualify for DACA

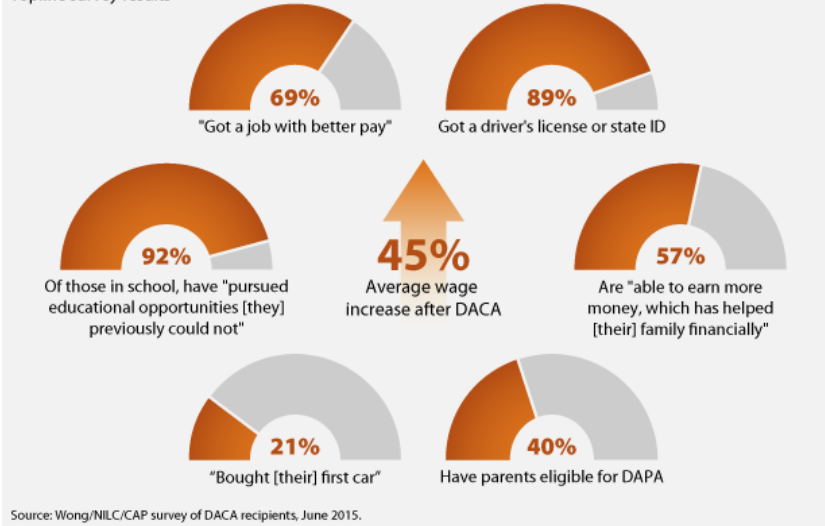
- Under age 31 as of June 15, 2012
- Arrived in U.S. before 16th birthday
- Have continuously resided in the U.S. since 06/15/2007
- Physically present on 6/15/2012, entered w/o inspection before 6/15/2012 OR fell out of lawful status as of 06/15/2012
- Attending school at time of application (or have graduated, earned GED, honorable military discharge)
- Not convicted of felony, significant misdemeanor or 3 or more misdemeanors

There are roughly 700,000 individuals under DACA nationwide as of September 2017. In Minnesota there are over 5,500 individuals utilizing DACA, but roughly 11,000 were eligible.¹

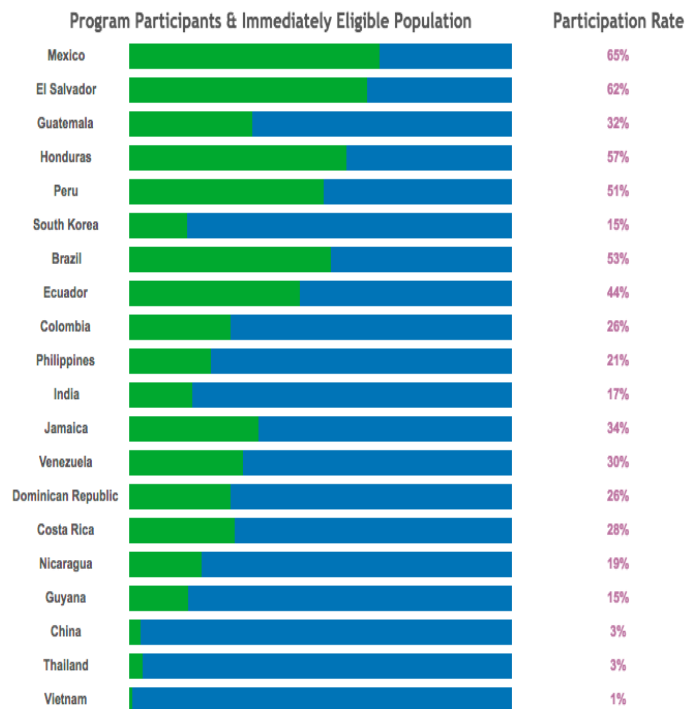
¹ [Migration Policy Institute](#)

How Has DACA Impacted the Lives of Recipients?

FIGURE 1
DACA is significantly improving the lives of recipients
 Topline survey results



DACA Recipients & Program Participation Rate, by Country of Origin, 2017



United States Demographic Data of DACA Recipients

DACA is an issue that encompasses a wide and diverse population. Unfortunately a large percentage of DACA eligible individuals did not apply for DACA with this being a prevalent issue in non-Latin American countries of origin.²

² [Migration Policy Institute](#)

DACA and Our Campuses

What do students need to know about DACA and related legislation?

- Under DACA, students can legally work, which allows them to pay tuition out of pocket or apply for a limited amount of personal loans. Students are also allowed to apply for a driver's license.
- Although the program did not provide a pathway to citizenship, it allowed students inside of the LeadMN umbrella to be able to attend school.
- We do not know the exact number of DACA recipients who are currently enrolled in the Minnesota State system.
- DACA-eligible Individuals cannot apply for federal financial aid, but undocumented high school graduates who met eligibility requirements could apply for state financial aid through the Minnesota Dream Act.
- The Minnesota State colleges and technical colleges have almost 250 students utilizing the MN Dream Act. This is the highest number of students in Minnesota, when compared to the other institution types.

Why We Must Act Now

On September 5, 2017 the Trump Administration announced it was ending DACA. The announcement included a 6-month grace period for Congress to develop a more permanent solution. Ending DACA jeopardizes the futures of over 7,000,000 DACA recipients and their potential economic benefits to the U.S.

At LeadMN, we believe every student has the potential to be a leader that will help solve tomorrow's challenges. Thousands of DACA students are attending our two-year community colleges—talented and hardworking students that just want to pursue the American Dream. LeadMN has heard countless stories about how our students now live in fear without the protections granted by DACA. The rescission of DACA threatens the lives of students and strips them of their dreams of receiving an education and applying their knowledge in the workforce.

With the March 5th deadline quickly approaching, it is critical that we act now to send letters to Congress urging them to adopt a permanent solution for DACA-eligible individuals. A permanent solution is needed immediately so that 6,000 Minnesota students and over 700,000 individuals nationwide no longer have to live in uncertainty.

We cannot turn our back on students. It is critical that Congress pass bipartisan legislation to ensure that DACA-eligible individuals can continue their education. With over 86% of Americans in support of a right to residency for undocumented immigrants and the March 5th deadline quickly approaching, Congress must take immediate action to support DACA-eligible individuals.

Talking Points

Education

We at LeadMN strive to advocate for students and it is our mission to remove barriers to education. For nearly 300,000 students DACA was a pathway for success that is now being threatened. In Minnesota there are over 6000 individuals utilizing DACA, but roughly 16,000 were eligible.

A 2016 nationwide survey of DACA-recipients revealed³:

- 60% of recipients pursued educational opportunities that they were previously unable to
- 46% of recipients are currently enrolled in college
- 20% recipients in secondary school
- 14% recipients paid off/in process of paying loans (state & college aid)

Without the protections offered by DACA, 300,000 people across the country will be faced with uncertain futures. This includes being unable to complete their education or applying their degree in a job.

Economy

DACA recipients have made positive contributions to the economy in multiple ways:

- 54% bought cars and 12% bought first homes accounting for more revenue for states and localities in the form of sales and property taxes.
- 6% started own businesses = creation of new jobs

As of 2017, 55% of DACA recipients are employed, amounting to 382,000 workers.⁴ Without the DACA workforce, the economy could experience negative effects. It is estimated that the U.S would stand to lose \$433 billion in gross domestic product from the loss of the DACA workforce in the next 10 years⁵.

³ [2016 National DACA Recipient Survey](#)

⁴ [Migration Policy Institute](#)

⁵ [GDP Estimates](#)

Inclusive Environments

The Minnesota State Systems is committed to access to educational opportunity for all Minnesotans and observes that diversity is a key strength. Interim Chancellor Malhotra's supports DACA and is:

*“Committed to working with our students, our faculty, our staff, and our representatives in Washington toward a long-term solution that supports DACA students and allows them to continue to contribute to our vibrant communities throughout Minnesota and to our economy. Our campuses will remain safe and welcoming places of inclusion, hope, and opportunity for all of our students, faculty, and staff.”*⁶

Advocating for DACA-eligible students and supporting a permanent solution helps our campuses be inclusive spaces where all students can pursue their education. By supporting DACA-eligible students we are promoting access and increased sense of belonging, which are critical to student success.

Supporting DACA-eligible students also increases the diversity of our campuses. Research has long shown that diversity on college campuses leads to cross-cultural competence, greater civic responsibility, advanced critical thinking, and an increase in retention. Furthermore, diversity on campus also helps institutions prepare students to work in a global workforce.

⁶ [Statement made by interim Chancellor Malhotra at Minnesota State](#)

Action: What Can You Do?

1. Write letters to congress

This is where you can have the most measurable impact by telling your representatives that you support a permanent solution for DACA-eligible students.

LeadMN encourages senators to designate a day to table and collect letters to congress.

2. Collect student stories

Give the opportunity for students to share their stories about DACA. They need their stories to be heard loud and clear. Having a collection of student stories ensures that their voices are represented and empowered. Student story forms can be submitted electronically or sent in to the LeadMN Equity and Inclusion team. *Please keep in mind that not all students are at a point where they can share their personal experiences or status.*

- a. Give the option of sending story directly to Equity Team.
- b. Alias and pseudonym option
- c. Notice that stories may be used for awareness.

3. Organize an awareness event

Many students on your campus might not be aware of this issue, it is on us to inform our campuses about DACA. Some ideas include but are not limited to hosting an informational seminar, organizing a forum, or tabling for support. For additional support or ideas contact the LeadMN Equity and Inclusion team.

4. Remain up to date on any changes

Because of the nature of this issue, staying up to date on any policy changes and potential impacts to students. Some sites to track updates include:

- a. [Department of Homeland Security](#)
- b. [ALCU](#)
- c. [Minnesota State Office of Higher Education](#)
- d. [Immigration Law Center of Minnesota](#)
- e. [News Updates on DACA](#)

Campus Action Planning Sheet

Use this sheet to set goals for your senate in advocating for DACA and DACA-eligible students.

1. Designate one senate member to be the main point of contact for all information about LeadMN's efforts to support DACA and DACA-eligible students. Send contact information to myang@leadmn.org
 - a. Team leader on this: _____
 - b. Deadline: _____

2. Table to collect letters to Congress and make a goal. *Ex. Get 30 students to write a letter urging Congress to adopt a permanent solution for DACA-eligible students.*
 - a. Team leader on this: _____
 - b. Deadline: _____

3. Host an event raising awareness about DACA and share resources with other students and organizations on campus.
 - a. Team leader on this: _____
 - b. Deadline: _____

4. Educate your senate about DACA and stay up to date with related news.
 - a. Team leader on this: _____
 - b. Deadline: _____

Tabling Script

Attention Grabber/Hook

Here are some hooks you can use when approaching folks:

- Are you aware that over 6,000 students in Minnesota may no longer be able to pursue their education?
- Do you feel there are too few barriers to education?
- It is important for you to apply your degree in a job after education?

After the individual has responded, transition into your ask...

Ask - Action Step

I am here today asking folks to send letters to their Congress members in support of DACA-eligible students. It is critical that we act and show our support now since Congress has a deadline of March 5th. Without a permanent solution, 1000 people a day could lose the protection they previously had under DACA. This includes nearly 300,000 students across the country.

Can I count on you to write a letter to your Congress member urging them to support a permanent solution for DACA-eligible students? We have a template ready to go. It will only take you one minute to positively impact over 700,000 lives.

Tips for tabling

- *Ensure that you have a table reserved and try to table in high traffic area.*
- *Don't stand behind your Table. Walk up to people and talk to them one-on-one or in small groups*
- *Use a clipboard and after you ask them your introductory sentence to pull them into a conversation, hand them your clipboard. Think of this clipboard pass as a firm Handshake.*
- *ALWAYS have a pen in your hand and hand them the pen after you ask them to sign the letter*

Materials needed

- *Computer for folks to submit online letter*
- *Physical letter templates*
- *Student story collection forms*
- *Pens*
- *Clipboard*

Forms

Letter to Congress

You can submit a letter to your congress member in three ways.

1. Online Letter Submission

Link: <https://www.leadmn.org/daca-letters-congress>

This is the best method to submit your letter as it is immediately sent to your member of Congress. When you are tabling, it is recommended that you use a computer with the above webpage pulled up so that folks can submit their letter immediately.

2. QR Code



By scanning the above code you will be automatically directed to the online letter submission form. **iPhone:** You can scan directly by opening your camera and showing it on the code. **Android:** You can scan using Snapchat, Facebook, or a QR reader app.

3. Letter Collection Forms

You can also use the following form to collect the contact information for individuals who are not able to complete the online letter form. Turn in your forms to LeadMN and the information will be submitted.

More QR codes and letter formss can be printed from the “Resources” section on the LeadMN Dream Together page at <https://www.leadmn.org/dreamtogether>



On September 5th, the U.S. Government rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). This decision impacted over 700,000 people nationwide and discourages nearly 300,000 students from continuing education. It is our fundamental responsibility to protect students and that means protecting our DACA-eligible peers who have been raised and educated in America and who have contributed so much to our communities. It is critical that we advocate for students and urge Congress to pass a permanent solution to DACA.

Urge Congress to adopt a permanent solution to DACA so that DACA-eligible students can continue to pursue their education and dreams!

<p>Dear Member of Congress,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to immediately adopt a permanent solution for DACA-eligible students so that 6,000 Minnesota students and over 700,000 individuals nationwide no longer have to live in uncertainty. We cannot turn our back on students. The time to protect students is now as over 86% of Americans agree that Congress must pass bipartisan legislation to ensure that DACA-eligible individuals can continue their education and pursue their dreams. It is our moral responsibility to protect students and that means protecting DACA-eligible individuals who have been raised and educated in America and who have contributed so much to our communities. Congress must take action immediately to support DACA-eligible individuals.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer</p>	<p>Dear Member of Congress,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to immediately adopt a permanent solution for DACA-eligible students so that 6,000 Minnesota students and over 700,000 individuals nationwide no longer have to live in uncertainty. We cannot turn our back on students. The time to protect students is now as over 86% of Americans agree that Congress must pass bipartisan legislation to ensure that DACA-eligible individuals can continue their education and pursue their dreams. It is our moral responsibility to protect students and that means protecting DACA-eligible individuals who have been raised and educated in America and who have contributed so much to our communities. Congress must take action immediately to support DACA-eligible individuals.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer</p>
<p>Dear Member of Congress,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to immediately adopt a permanent solution for DACA-eligible students so that 6,000 Minnesota students and over 700,000 individuals nationwide no longer have to live in uncertainty. We cannot turn our back on students. The time to protect students is now as over 86% of Americans agree that Congress must pass bipartisan legislation to ensure that DACA-eligible individuals can continue their education and pursue their dreams. It is our moral responsibility to protect students and that means protecting DACA-eligible individuals who have been raised and educated in America and who have contributed so much to our communities. Congress must take action immediately to support DACA-eligible individuals.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer</p>	<p>Dear Member of Congress,</p> <p>I am writing to urge you to immediately adopt a permanent solution for DACA-eligible students so that 6,000 Minnesota students and over 700,000 individuals nationwide no longer have to live in uncertainty. We cannot turn our back on students. The time to protect students is now as over 86% of Americans agree that Congress must pass bipartisan legislation to ensure that DACA-eligible individuals can continue their education and pursue their dreams. It is our moral responsibility to protect students and that means protecting DACA-eligible individuals who have been raised and educated in America and who have contributed so much to our communities. Congress must take action immediately to support DACA-eligible individuals.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I would like to volunteer</p>

Student Story Collection Form

LeadMN is also asking for submission of student stories illustrating the impact of DACA. Sharing your story helps others realize the tremendous effects that DACA has on individuals in our very own community. Your story has the potential to inspire others and motivate key decision makers to move towards a permanent solution for DACA-eligible individuals.

1. Online Letter Submission

Link: <https://www.leadmn.org/daca-story-submission>

2. Printable Story Submission Form

Use the following form to collect stories. More forms can be accessed on the LeadMN Dream Together page.

Link: <https://www.leadmn.org/dreamtogether>



The Impact of DACA

We at LeadMN strive to advocate for students and it is our mission to remove barriers to education. The recession of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program leaves thousands of people across the country with uncertain futures. This includes students who were allowed to attend school under the protections offered by DACA. LeadMN is organizing to collect letters urging congress to adopt a permanent solution for DACA-eligible individuals and ensure that education is accessible to all.

LeadMN is also asking for submission of student stories illustrating the impact of DACA. Sharing your story helps others realize the tremendous effects that DACA has on individuals in our very own community. Your story has the potential to inspire others and motivate key decision makers to move towards a permanent solution for DACA-eligible individuals.

Join us as we DREAM TOGETHER and advocate for the opportunity for all students to achieve their dreams and pursue their education.

Personal Information:

Name _____ Date _____

Campus _____ Phone _____

Email _____

School Status *(Check all that apply)* Full-Time Part-Time PSEO
 Veteran Pell Eligible First Generation College Student
 Prefer not to say

By signing below I give permission for LeadMN to share my story in efforts to raise awareness and promote permanent solutions towards educations for DACA-eligible students. If you would prefer to not have your name associated with your story please provide a pseudonym.

_____ Date _____

Pseudonym _____

Blank lined area for form completion.

Please return all forms to The Equity and Inclusion Team at LeadMN or email to myang@leadmn.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is DACA?

A: The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was created by the Obama Administration in 2012. DACA allowed certain people who were brought to the United States as children to request deferred action/protection from deportation, for a period of two years. DACA deferment could be renewed only once, and is not a path to citizenship.

Q: Why now?

A: Congress has a deadline of March 2018 to make a decision regarding DACA. Over 1,000 people will lose protections everyday if Congress does not reach an agreement by March 5th. As such it is critical that we urge Congress to act immediately.

Q: Why should I support DACA?

A: DACA-recipients positively contribute to our society in a variety of ways:

- 60% of recipients are enrolled in college to gain skills and certificates in order to get better pay jobs and contribute to the economy.
- It is estimated that the U.S. would lose \$433 GDP dollars without the DACA workforce.
- Supporting DACA-eligible students promotes access and increased sense of belonging in our colleges, which are critical to student success.
- 86% of Americans agree that DACA-recipients positively impact our country and are in support of Congress adopting a bipartisan permanent solution.

Q: How can I help?

A: Write a letter to your Congress member urging the adoption of a permanent solution for DACA-eligible individuals.

Q: What does “permanent solution” mean?

A: We support pathways that would allow for DACA-eligible students access to education and the ability apply their education.

Q: Why should I support people who came here “illegally”?

People are not “illegal”, actions are. The proper term to use is “undocumented”. Undocumented presence in the United States alone is not a violation of federal law.

Q: Why don't DACA-recipients just become citizens?

For the majority of DACA-eligible folks there is no pathway to citizenship. DACA itself only granted temporary protected status - it was not a pathway.