

# The Case For Protecting Dreamers

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”) program was created in 2012 and allowed certain young people, who came to the U.S. as children, to apply for work authorization and protection from deportation.

DACA recipients must meet a series of strict criteria, are required to pass an extensive background check as part of the application process, and must renew their application every two years to remain in the program.

DACA recipients across the country are living in fear and uncertainty, from court case to court case. Only Congress can provide a permanent legislative solution, so unless Members of Congress take action, hundreds of thousands of young people will be ripped from their loved ones, their communities, and their jobs, with devastating consequences for their lives, and for the U.S. economy.

## DACA Recipients Live in and Contribute to Nearly Every Community Across the Country

- All DACA recipients have lived in the United States for at least a decade, and many for much longer. The average Dreamer came to the United States at the age of six and is now 25 years old. They were educated in American elementary, middle, and high schools, and many have earned degrees from U.S. universities. **Dreamers are Americans in virtually every single way, except on paper.**
- Dreamers are deeply integrated in nearly every community across the United States. They work as nurses, teachers, and engineers; they go to our schools, teach our children, play on our kids’ sports teams, and worship alongside us in our churches.
- **Nearly 700,000 young people in the U.S. have applied and currently hold DACA, and there are approximately 1.3 million DACA-eligible Dreamers living in the United States.**
- **DACA recipients contribute more than \$42 billion to the annual GDP in the U.S.**
- These hard working young people came forward and volunteered their personal information to the government in good faith, but that very same information could now be used to target them for deportation if Congress fails to take action.

*nearly*

**700,000**

Young people in the U.S. have applied and currently hold DACA

**1.3 million**

DACA-eligible Dreamers living in the United States.

**\$42 billion**

Annual GDP contributed by DACA recipients in the U.S

## Dreamers Own Homes, Start Businesses That Employ Native-Born Americans, and Pay Billions of Dollars in Taxes Every Year

**\$2 billion** contributed by Dreamers to Social Security annually

**\$470 million** paid into Medicare by Dreamers every year

**\$92 billion** federal revenue produced from 2019-2028 if current DACA recipients were allowed to remain in the U.S.

**\$1 trillion** added to the U.S. GDP over a decade if permanent protections for Dreamers are passed

**96%** of Dreamers either working or in school.

**6%** of Dreamers have launched their own business.

More than **60%** of Dreamers have purchased a vehicle.

**14%** of Dreamers have purchased their own home, and they pay an estimated **\$380 million** in property taxes every year.

**\$1.7 billion**

Annual state and local taxes paid by Dreamers every year

**\$1.4 billion**

Annual federal taxes paid by Dreamers

**\$19.9 billion**

Annual income of Dreamers

## Hurting DACA Recipients Hurts Everyone

- Dreamers have deep roots in their communities across the country; uprooting their lives hurts not only them, but millions of their loved ones, neighbors, and employers.
- Dreamers are also the parents to hundreds of thousands of U.S.-born citizen children; Congress' failure to pass a permanent legislative solution would be directly responsible for ripping apart thousands of American families.
- Since DACA's rescission in 2017, every year nearly 100,000 Dreamers graduate from high school without DACA or protection from deportation, harming their work prospects and limiting their access to higher education.

**\$10 billion**

The cost of removal alone of DACA recipients from the U.S. in addition to the terrible moral consequences

**200,000**

U.S. citizen children who have at least one parent that is a DACA recipient

**FWD.us** is a bipartisan political organization that believes America's families, communities, and economy thrive when more individuals are able to achieve their full potential. For too long, our broken immigration and criminal justice systems have locked too many people out of the American dream. Founded by leaders in the technology and business communities, we seek to grow and galvanize political support to break through partisan gridlock and achieve meaningful reforms. Together, we can move America forward. To learn more go to [www.fwd.us](http://www.fwd.us).

**Sources:** Migration Policy Institute, American Action Forum, Cato Institute, Center for American Progress, New American Economy, Zillow, Brookings Institution, The Washington Post.