

For Immediate Release:

On September 5, 2017, president Trump announced the termination of the program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). DACA is effectively rescinded as of this date, with certain guidance on the implementation of this termination and its implications.

Catholic Charities is disappointed at the announcement. “The Catholic Bishops of the United States have long supported the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Ending this program and rescinding the legal status of nearly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants is unjust and potentially endangers their lives,” said the Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, Archbishop of Indianapolis. “I urge President Trump not to turn our nation’s back on these young people and to instead work with Congress on comprehensive immigration reform that is just and respects the God-given dignity of these vulnerable youths and all immigrants.” Despite the announcement, Catholic Charities will continue to assist any and all immigrants in whatever way it can to promote their dignity and provide them with opportunities to succeed in life.

Per the announcement, the following guidelines have been provided by the Department of Homeland Security:

- No new **initial** DACA applications can be submitted
- Those who have DACA will be allowed to keep their DACA status until it expires no matter the date of expiration.

For example, if a person’s DACA expires on June 6, 2019, he or she will be allowed to keep DACA status until this expiration.

- If a person’s DACA expires **on or before** March 5, 2018, he or she can still apply to renew DACA, but the renewal application must be submitted before October 5, 2017.
- If DACA expires **after** March 5, 2018, the person cannot submit a new DACA renewal application

For example, if a person’s DACA expires on March 4th, 2018, that person can submit a renewal application but must be submitted before October 5, 2017. If a person’s DACA expires on March 6th, 2018, that person cannot apply for renewal.

- If a person’s case is currently pending approval, it may be approved by USCIS but it will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
- All applications for Advance Parole (travel document) that are currently pending with USCIS will be rejected and sent back to the applicant
- No new applications for Advance Parole will be accepted

Catholic Charities is recommending the following actions:

- If a DACA recipient's status expires between now and March 5th 2018, he or she **MUST** submit a renewal application by October 5, 2017. Please contact Catholic Charities if assistance is needed.
- For those who are currently outside of the U.S. on Advance Parole, we recommend returning immediately.
- For those with valid Advance Parole who have not yet left the U.S, we recommend not traveling.
- For those whose DACA will expire after March 5, 2018, there is nothing to be done with regard to DACA. We recommend seeking legal counsel to determine if you qualify for any additional immigration benefit.