

Top 10 Facts: *DACA* and *DREAMers*

1 The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (*DACA*) Program was created by President Obama and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (*USCIS*) in 2012. To qualify, immigrants had to have come to the United States before their 16th birthday and have never been convicted of a felony, among other requirements.

2 As of March 2017, *USCIS* received 936,394 requests for *DACA* status (for comparison, about the size of the population of Austin, Texas) and 952,917 renewals. Of those, it approved 886,814 requests and 884,661 renewals.

3 California, Texas, and New York had the highest number of *DACA* applicants. Estimates put the total number of approved applicants from those three states alone at over 750,000.

4 The majority of *DREAMer* applicants are from Mexico. 1.2 million total applications listed Mexico as country of origin.

5 As of 2013, 54% of *DACA* applicants were under the age of 21. Today, the average age of a *DACA* recipient is 25.

6 El Salvador and Guatemala are the second and third largest groups of *DREAMers*. This does not account for the 2014–2016 surge of unaccompanied minors from Central America – those individuals did not qualify under *DACA*'s restrictions.

7 Rescinding *DACA* and deporting everyone eligible for the program would shrink the population by over 1 million working-age individuals, the vast majority of whom contribute to the U.S. economy. A 2016 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (*ITEP*) survey of *DACA* recipients found that over 40 percent of respondents landed their first job after enrolling in *DACA*, while over 60 percent secured a job with higher pay.

8 Fewer workers means less economic growth, and therefore less tax revenue. According to research from *ITEP*, 1.3 million *DACA* recipients and potential enrollees contribute an estimated \$2 billion a year in state and local taxes. And repealing *DACA* would lead to \$60 billion in foregone federal revenue over ten years, according to the Cato Institute.

9 According to a 2016 *ITEP* survey, *DACA* enrollment allowed 60 percent of respondents to access to educational opportunities that previously had been unavailable to them. Rescinding *DACA* policy would reverse this trend, which would likely hamper innovation and put downward pressure on economic growth.

10 *ITEP* found that continuing the *DACA* program and accepting all eligible applicants would increase estimated state and local revenue by \$425 million. The organization also estimates that replacing *DACA* with a path to citizenship could provide \$505 million in state and local taxes.

For more backgrounders and fact sheets on immigration topics please visit, bipartisanpolicy.org/immigration