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President Obama's Immigration Announcement

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced executive actions to address problems in our immigration system including an expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the creation of the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program.

UPDATE: On February 16, 2015, a Texas judge ordered a temporary stop to the start of these programs – the U.S. government is fighting that ruling. Expanded DACA and DAPA are temporarily delayed nationwide while the lawsuit challenging these programs is pending.

The lawsuit does not affect the original DACA program announced on June 15, 2012. People who qualify may still apply and renew under the original DACA rules.

This is a bump in the road. Use this time to gather documents and continue preparing! We will continue to fight until the President's immigration initiatives become reality. Stay tuned.

What is deferred action?

Deferred action is temporary permission from immigration officials to stay in the U.S. It is as if the government is saying: "We know you are in the country without permission, and we can take action to deport you, but we will postpone deporting you." It does not mean that a person with deferred action has legal immigration status, a visa or a green card. And it is not a path to U.S. citizenship. A person with deferred action has temporary protection from deportation and qualifies for a work permit.

What are these programs?

Expanded DACA and DAPA are immigration programs that allow those who qualify to stay in the U.S. and get permission to work for three years.

	Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA)[1] Program	**Expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program**
Who qualifies?	To qualify for DAPA, you must: • Be the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident ("green card holder") son or daughter born on or before November 20, 2014; • Have lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010; • Be here in the U.S. on November 20, 2014 *and* on the date you apply for deferred action; • Have no lawful immigration status in the U.S. on November 20, 2014; and	Most of the DACA requirements have not changed, but there are some changes that may allow more people to qualify. Here are the changes to DACA: • There is no longer an age cap. If you were told before that you were too old to qualify for DACA this may mean that you now qualify as long as you meet the other criteria. • The President changed how long you must have lived in the U.S. to qualify for DACA. Before, you were required to show that you lived in the U.S. since June 15, 2007. *Now*,

[1] Also known as Deferred Action for Parental Accountability.

	Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA)[1] Program	Expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program
	• Submit to, and pass, security and criminal background checks.	DACA will cover people who have lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010. • DACA and a work permit will be for three-year periods. Between November 24, 2014, and February 16, 2015, people who applied for DACA for the first-time or to renew, received deferred action and permission to work for three years. The three-year deferred action and work permits are on hold right now while the Texas case is pending. Currently, USCIS is granting deferred action and work permits valid for two years. • NOTE: To apply for DACA, you still must be at least 15 years old, and you must have entered the U.S. before your 16th birthday. Visit the USCIS website to learn more about the other requirements: www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals.
When can I apply?	The government is not accepting applications now. They expected to begin accepting applications in approximately 180 days (i.e., May 19, 2015) but that is on hold due to the Texas case.	If you meet the old criteria for DACA, you can apply now. However, if you qualify for DACA under the new criteria, you will have to wait to apply until a court makes a decision about whether Expanded DACA can move forward.

What steps can I take now? Gather documents to see if you qualify for the program. It is best to collect documents that include your name and the date, and show you were in the United States.

DAPA	DACA
• *Proof that you were in the U.S. on November 20, 2014*. If you haven't already, get proof that you were in the U.S. on this day. For example, a bank statement, records from a doctor's office, or other proof. • *Proof of Relationship to U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident children*: Birth Certificate of son or daughter, or other proof. • *Proof that your son or daughter is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident:* Passport, Birth Certificate, Naturalization Certificate, Lawful Permanent Resident card ("green card"), or other proof.	• *Proof of education or military service*: School transcripts, high school diploma, GED, certificate from high school or other qualifying education program. To meet the military service requirement, you must show that you are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or U.S. Armed Forces.
Proof of Identity: Passport, Birth Certificate, National Identity Document, and other documents.	

Proof of having lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010: Rent Receipts or Mortgage Payment Records, Medical Records, Employment Records, Bank Statements, Tax Records, Church Records, School Records, and other documents.
Criminal and juvenile history records: If you have ever been arrested or convicted of a crime, or associated with gangs, or if you are unsure about your criminal history, you should get a copy of your criminal history and talk to an attorney to learn if you are eligible for DACA or DAPA. See "How to Get Your Criminal Records Guide" at http://www.adminrelief.org/resources/attachment.259796

WARNING! Beware of scams. Get help from a licensed attorney or Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accredited representative. Find legal help at www.adminrelief.org/legalhelp.