

# THE END OF DACA

## WHAT UNIONS NEED TO KNOW

On Sept. 5, the Trump administration announced it will end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Here's what unions and AFL-CIO state federations and central labor councils need to know about the end of DACA:

- 1. Although the program is ending, no one will lose DACA status immediately.** The Trump administration announced it is “winding down” the program. This means people who have work authorization through DACA—which is granted for two-year periods—can continue to work and maintain those protections until they expire.
- 2. Some people can renew their DACA status, but they must act quickly.** The Trump administration announced that individuals whose existing DACA status expires before March 5, 2018, may seek to renew for another two years, as long as the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services receives their application for renewal by Oct. 5, 2017. Individuals who do not have DACA and who have not applied already no longer can apply. Individuals whose DACA expires after March 5, 2018, cannot apply for renewal.
- 3. Individuals with DACA no longer will be given permission to travel abroad.** The Trump administration announced that it no longer will approve requests from DACA recipients to travel abroad (known as “advance parole”). Individuals who already have permission to travel abroad based on an earlier request for advance parole should consult an attorney before doing so.

### Protecting Dreamers—What Unions Can Do

Many DACA recipients are members of our unions, family members, neighbors and friends. Here's what your union can do to help them:

- 1. Get accurate information out to members about DACA.** Make sure members know that if they already have DACA and work authorization, it remains valid until it expires, and they can continue to work. Get the word out that individuals who are eligible to renew their DACA must do so by Oct. 5, or they will miss the opportunity. Ensure your members also know how to connect with service providers who are assisting with renewal applications.
- 2. Bargain with employers to protect members with DACA.** Request that the employer provide time off for employees to deal with immigration-related issues such as DACA renewal. Bargain to permit employees terminated because of loss of work authorization to return to work with no loss of seniority if they regain work authorization within a specified period of time. For additional ideas, sample contract language or questions, contact Shannon Lederer at [slederer@afclcio.org](mailto:slederer@afclcio.org).

- 3. Help DACA recipients with the cost of applying for renewal.** The fee to process a DACA renewal application is \$495, and the deadline to apply for renewal is coming up quickly. Without financial support, this fee can present a real barrier that prevents young people from gaining two additional years of work authorization and protection against deportation. Unions can provide financial support to members, their families or to community members who need assistance to pay the renewal fee to ensure they will not miss the narrow renewal window.
- 4. Contact your congressional delegation and tell your elected leaders you want them to pass a clean DREAM Act.** Congress can fix this problem, but they need to hear from us. The DREAM Act would provide relief to DACA recipients, including a pathway to citizenship. Let your congressional delegation know that people with DACA are valuable members of your union, your family or your community. Urge them to pass the DREAM Act now, without escalated enforcement or anti-worker provisions.
- 5. Spread the word about how protections like DACA benefit our entire workforce.** Anti-immigrant politicians are attempting to justify their cruel efforts to strip status from immigrant workers by suggesting that native-born workers will benefit. Unions are uniquely positioned to rebuke this divisive and misleading rhetoric by making clear we cannot expect to raise wages and standards in our country until all working people have rights on the job. For communication and messaging support, including talking points and sample petitions, please contact Gonzalo Salvador at [gsalvador@aficio.org](mailto:gsalvador@aficio.org).