

## **Catholic Charities Fort Worth Updates on the DACA Program**

The Trump Administration announced plans to wind down Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which provides a way for those who came to the United States as children of undocumented immigrants to legally remain in our country. For many of these young people, the United States is the only home they can remember. At Catholic Charities Fort Worth, we view everyone that enters our doors as made in the image of God. In that spirit, we support legislation that promotes the principle of family reunification and respects the human dignity of immigrants.

Our Immigration program has served many of these young adults to file for DACA status. Though DACA is not a permanent solution, and does not allow them to access most public benefits like food stamps, this status has made a marked difference in their lives. With DACA, they are allowed to work, pay taxes, attend school, and move about freely in our communities without fear. More than 110,000 young adults brought to Texas will be impacted by this announcement, and almost 800,000 throughout the United States.

You can find more information about DACA here:

- <https://www.uscis.gov/daca2017>
- <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/09/05/frequently-asked-questions-rescission-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>

### **Here is what to do if you need help or are impacted by DACA:**

Though no new DACA applications will be accepted, DACA renewals are available to those whose work permits (EADs) expire on or before March 5, 2018. Any EAD (Employment Authorization Documents) that expire after this date are not eligible for renewal. Applications that are eligible for renewal must be submitted by October 5, 2017. If you are eligible, please set up an appointment with our Immigration Services as soon as possible. We have opened up more appointments to accommodate as many people as possible.

### **Appointment Information:**

- Appointments must be made over the phone or in-person. To schedule appointment over the phone, call 817 289-4399 between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Monday through Friday. To schedule in-person, come to our main campus located at 249 West Thornhill Drive, Fort Worth, Texas from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- Catholic Charities cost is \$350 (money order only), Immigration cost is \$495 (money order only), and consultation fee is \$40.
- Bring both money orders (\$495 and \$350), work permits (EAD), Driver License/State ID, Social Security Card, and/or last two years taxes (if filed)/proof of physical presence in the United States for last two years (pay stubs, bank statements, medical records, school records, etc.) to your appointment.
- Clients should be prepared to be in our office for at least one hour.

**If you're looking for ways to help, please consider the following:**

- Praying for people in our community and in our nation who are DACA recipients, as well as for our leaders as they consider decisions.
- [Contacting your legislator](#) to ask them to act and immediately resume work toward a legislative solution.
- Learning more about this issue. You can read more from the [Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops website](#).
- Sharing more about this issue on your social media and digital channels. We invite you to link to this page and share it.
- You can donate money to Catholic Charities Fort Worth here to enable us to continue supporting this population, and we ask you to consider volunteering to help with scheduling or legal needs.