



DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) Educational Guide

Butterfly Dreamers and Their Families Support Network

This educational guide was created to help immigrant families better understand DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), renewal processes, work authorization, supporting evidence, and important immigration considerations.

Disclaimer: This guide is for educational purposes only. We are not attorneys and do not provide legal advice. Immigration laws, policies, filing fees, and USCIS procedures may change at any time. Always verify information directly through USCIS or consult with a licensed immigration attorney or DOJ accredited representative if needed.

What is DACA?

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a policy that may provide temporary protection from deportation and work authorization to certain eligible individuals who came to the United States as children. DACA does not provide lawful permanent residence or citizenship by itself.



Current DACA Situation

At this time, USCIS generally continues processing DACA renewals for individuals who previously received DACA. Initial DACA applications remain subject to ongoing court decisions and government policies. Immigration policies may change over time.

General DACA Eligibility Requirements For Initial DACA

General DACA eligibility historically included:

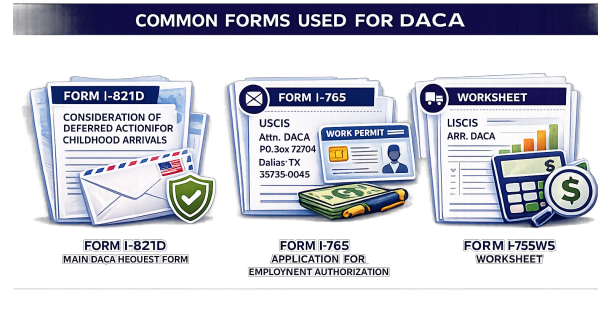
- Arrival in the United States before age 16
- Continuous residence requirements
- Physical presence requirements
- Educational or military service requirements
- No certain serious criminal convictions Eligibility requirements should always be reviewed carefully.

Common Forms Used for DACA

Form I-821D – Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Main DACA request form.

Form I-765 – Application for Employment Authorization Used to request a work permit.

Form I-765WS – Worksheet Explains economic necessity for employment authorization.



DACA RENEWAL PROCESS



DACA Renewal Process

Many current recipients renew DACA before expiration. Applicants commonly:

- Monitor expiration dates carefully
- File renewal requests months before expiration
- Keep copies of prior approvals
- Verify current USCIS filing instructions Late renewals may affect work authorization continuity.

Supporting Evidence Commonly Submitted

Examples of evidence may include:

- Prior DACA approval notices
- Employment Authorization Document (EAD) copies
- Passport copies
- Identity documents
- Passport-style photos

USCIS instructions should always be reviewed for current evidence requirements.



Educational Requirement Examples For INITIAL DACA ONLY

Applicants may historically qualify through:

- High school enrollment
- High school diploma
- GED completion
- Certain educational programs
- Military service in some situations

Work Authorization Information

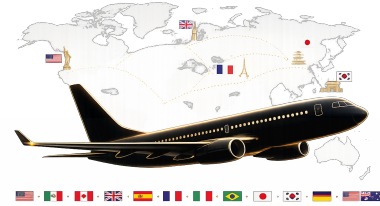
Approved DACA recipients may receive:

- Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
- Ability to apply for a Social Security number in many situations
- Lawful work authorization during the approval period Work permits generally have expiration dates and require renewal.

Travel and Advance Parole

Some DACA recipients may apply for Advance Parole for:

- Humanitarian reasons
- Educational purposes
- Employment purposes Advance Parole approval does not guarantee reentry into the United States.



Advance Parole and Future AOS

Some DACA recipients later use lawful reentry through Advance Parole as part of a future Adjustment of Status process, depending on individual eligibility and immigration history.



Important Criminal History Considerations

Certain criminal issues may affect DACA eligibility.

USCIS may review:

- Felony convictions
- Significant misdemeanors
- Multiple misdemeanor convictions
- Public safety concerns Applicants with criminal history should strongly consider consulting a qualified immigration attorney before filing.

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE

You **must** disclose your **full criminal history** when applying for U.S. immigration benefits.

Failing to disclose a criminal history or providing false information can result in:

- DENIAL of your application or benefit.
- REMOVAL from the United States.
- PERMANENT INADMISSIBILITY and other serious immigration consequences.

Be honest. Disclose all arrests, citations, charges, convictions, and juvenile offenses, even if expunged, dismissed, or long ago.

★ WHEN IN DOUBT, DISCLOSE. ★

Continuous Residence and Travel Concerns

Unauthorized travel outside the United States may affect DACA eligibility in some situations.

Applicants commonly:

- Keep records of residence history
- Save school and employment records
- Maintain copies of immigration documents

BIOMETRICS APPOINTMENT

DO NOT MISS IT!

Your biometrics appointment is a critical step in your immigration case. It is your responsibility to attend.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Biometrics allows USCIS to perform background and security checks on your case. Without it, we cannot move forward.

IF YOU MISS YOUR APPOINTMENT, YOU RISK:

- DENIAL of your application or benefit.
- DELAY in your case and additional processing time.
- ABANDONMENT of your application if you fail to appear.
- OTHER serious immigration consequences.

ATTEND YOUR APPOINTMENT. STAY ON TRACK. YOUR FUTURE IS TOO IMPORTANT TO MISS.

Need to reschedule? Contact USCIS as soon as possible using the number on your notice.

★ BE PREPARED. BE ON TIME. DON'T MISS YOUR APPOINTMENT. ★

Biometrics Appointments

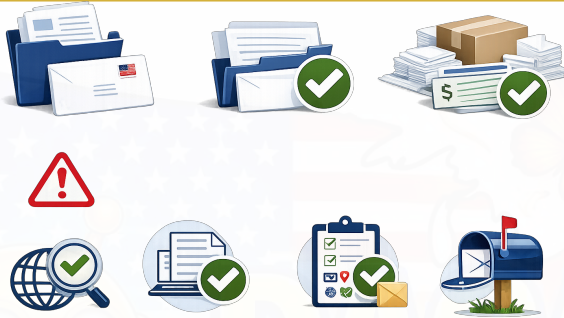
Many applicants receive biometrics appointments involving:

- Fingerprinting
- Photograph collection
- Signature collection Applicants should attend all scheduled appointments unless properly rescheduled.

Online Filing Tips

- **ALWAYS** start with **Form I-821D** first
 - Create your **USCIS online account** first
 - Have all documents ready before starting
 - Double-check name, **A-number**, **DOB**, and **address**
 - Review all answers carefully before moving on
 - Be careful with **travel and legal history questions**
 - Upload clear **PDF documents**
 - Save your progress often
 - Complete **I-765 and I-765WS after I-821D**
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- Review everything before submitting
 - Download/save copies of your application and receipt notice
 - Make sure payment goes through successfully
 - Check USCIS updates before filing
 - Use a good internet connection and avoid rushing

▲ Most important tip: Start with I-821D FIRST, ALWAYS.



FILE ONLINE. IT'S EASY. IT'S SECURE. IT'S SMART.

Online filing is the fastest, most convenient way to submit your immigration forms to USCIS.

THE BENEFITS OF ONLINE FILING

<p>FASTER PROCESSING Online forms are processed faster and get to USCIS quickly.</p>	<p>SAFE AND SECURE Your information is protected with advanced security.</p>	<p>CONVENIENT File from anywhere, 24/7, and save your progress.</p>	<p>CASE UPDATES Get real-time updates and receive important notifications.</p>	<p>GO PAPERLESS Reduce clutter and help the environment by filing online.</p>
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<p>READY TO GET STARTED? Create an account or log in to your existing account at: my.uscis.gov</p>	<p>OFFICIAL. TRUSTED. SECURE. File with confidence on the official USCIS website. Your information is safe with us.</p>
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★ FILE ONLINE TODAY AND TAKE THE NEXT STEP FORWARD. ★

Paper Filing Tips

Helpful reminders:

- Use the newest USCIS forms
- Sign all required forms
- Keep copies of everything submitted
- Mail with tracking whenever possible
- Review every form carefully before filing

Important Risks and Limitations

DACA is a discretionary policy and not a permanent immigration status.

DACA may:

- Be affected by court decisions
- Change through government policy
- Require future renewals Approval is not guaranteed.

General Filing Reminders

USCIS filing fees, addresses, and policies may change at any time.

Always:

- Verify filing fees directly through USCIS
- Confirm mailing addresses before shipping
- Use the latest USCIS form editions
- Use NEW Payment Forms **G-1450** and **G-1650** **NO Money Orders/Checks**



Mailing Address

USCIS lockbox addresses may vary depending on the state where the applicant lives and whether the packet is mailed through USPS or courier services such as FedEx or UPS. Always verify the most updated filing address directly through USCIS before mailing the packet.

DIRECT FILING ADDRESSES FOR FORM I-821D, CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS		
I LIVE IN...	U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (USPS) (Use for P.O. Boxes)	FEDEX, UPS, AND DHL DELIVERIES (Use for Physical Addresses)
USCIS PHOENIX LOCKBOX If you live in: • Arizona • California	USPS (P.O. BOX ADDRESS) USCIS Attn: DACA P.O. Box 20700 Phoenix, AZ 85036-0700	FEDEX, UPS, AND DHL (PHYSICAL ADDRESS) USCIS Attn: DACA (Box 20700) 2108 E. Elliot Rd. Tempe, AZ 85284-1806
USCIS DALLAS LOCKBOX If you live in: • Alaska • Mississippi • Texas • Alabama • Montana • Utah • Arkansas • North Dakota • U.S. Virgin Islands • Florida • Nebraska • Wyoming • Guam • New Mexico • Hawaii • Oklahoma • Iowa • Puerto Rico • Kansas • South Dakota • Louisiana • Minnesota • Missouri	USPS (P.O. BOX ADDRESS) USCIS Attn: DACA P.O. Box 660045 Dallas, TX 75266-0045	FEDEX, UPS, AND DHL (PHYSICAL ADDRESS) USCIS Attn: DACA (Box 660045) 2501 S. State Hwy.121, Business Suite 400 Lewisville, TX 75067-8003
USCIS CHICAGO LOCKBOX If you live in: • Colorado • Maine • Rhode Island • Connecticut • Michigan • South Carolina • Delaware • Nevada • Virginia • District of Columbia • North Carolina • Vermont • Georgia • New Hampshire • Washington • Illinois • New Jersey • West Virginia • Indiana • New York • Kentucky • Ohio • Massachusetts • Oregon • Maryland • Pennsylvania	USPS (P.O. BOX ADDRESS) USCIS Attn: DACA P.O. Box 5757 Chicago, IL 60680-5757	FEDEX, UPS, AND DHL (PHYSICAL ADDRESS) USCIS Attn: DACA (Box 5757) 131 S. Dearborn – 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60603-5517

IMPORTANT: Before sending your package to USCIS, make sure that all the forms you have completed are the current acceptable edition. The current acceptable edition can be found under the Edition Date section listed on each form's webpage.

Community Education and Support

Butterfly Dreamers and Their Families Support Network is committed to supporting Dreamers and immigrant families through education, community guidance, and access to publicly available immigration information.

Important Reminder

DACA policies and court decisions may continue changing over time. Every immigration case is different. Applicants with complicated immigration histories, criminal records, or prior removal orders should strongly consider consulting with a licensed immigration attorney or accredited representative before filing.

Butterfly Dreamers and Their Families Support Network











Phone: 956-680-2535

Email: support@dreamerssupportnetwork.org

Website: www.dreamerssupportnetwork.org



DACA PAPER FILING ADDRESSES (I-821D)

 I LIVE IN...	 U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (USPS):	 FEDEX, UPS, AND DHL DELIVERIES:
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arizona • California 	<p align="center">USCIS PHOENIX LOCKBOX</p>  <p align="center"> USCIS Attn: DACA P.O. Box 20700 Phoenix, AZ 85036-0700 </p>	<p align="center">USCIS PHOENIX LOCKBOX</p>  <p align="center"> USCIS Attn: DACA (Box 20700) 2108 E. Elliot Rd. Tempe, AZ 85284-1806 </p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska • Alabama • Arkansas • Florida • Guam • Hawaii • Idaho • Iowa • Kansas • Louisiana • Minnesota • Missouri • Mississippi • Montana • North Dakota • Nebraska • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Puerto Rico • South Dakota • Tennessee • Texas • Utah • U.S. Virgin Islands • Wyoming 	<p align="center">USCIS DALLAS LOCKBOX</p>  <p align="center"> USCIS Attn: DACA P.O. Box 660045 Dallas, TX 75266-0045 </p>	<p align="center">USCIS DALLAS LOCKBOX</p>  <p align="center"> USCIS Attn: DACA (Box 660045) 2501 S. State Hwy.121, Business Suite 400 Lewisville, TX 75067-8003 </p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • District of Columbia • Georgia • Illinois • Indiana • Kentucky • Massachusetts • Maryland • Maine • Michigan • Nevada • North Carolina • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New York • Ohio • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • South Carolina • Virginia • Vermont • Washington • Wisconsin • West Virginia 	<p align="center">USCIS CHICAGO LOCKBOX</p>  <p align="center"> USCIS Attn: DACA P.O. Box 5757 Chicago, IL 60680-5757 </p>	<p align="center">USCIS CHICAGO LOCKBOX</p>  <p align="center"> USCIS Attn: DACA (Box 5757) 131 S. Dearborn – 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60603-5517 </p>



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- USPS = P.O. Box addresses only
- FedEx, UPS, and DHL = Physical addresses only
- Always verify USCIS addresses before mailing
- For the most up-to-date information, visit www.uscis.gov