

President Obama's Immigration Announcement

NOVEMBER 21, 2014

On November 20, 2014, the president announced executive actions that his administration will be taking to help fix our dysfunctional immigration system.

Here's what we know about the new programs:

- A new **Deferred Action for Parents (DAP)** program will allow undocumented people who have a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident son or daughter to apply for work authorization and protection from deportation, if the person has been in the U.S. since January 1, 2010. An estimated 4.1 million people should qualify for this program.
- The existing **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program will be expanded and now will cover people who entered the U.S. before their sixteenth birthday and have lived continuously in the U.S. since January 1, 2010. People who were "aged out" of DACA by being older than age 31 on June 15, 2012, are now eligible to apply, regardless of how old they are now. Approximately 300,000 people will benefit from these changes.
- Certain **spouses of lawful permanent residents** may be able to get their lawful permanent resident ("green card") status through a [waiver process](#). Spouses of U.S. citizens are currently able to apply through this process.

Here's what you can do:

- Even if you are eligible for these programs, **you cannot apply for them yet!** The government expects that it will start accepting applications within three months from now for those eligible for expanded DACA, and within six months from now for those eligible for DAP.
- **Do not take advice about your immigration case from a notary public or an immigration consultant.** Contact *only* a [qualified immigration lawyer or an accredited representative](#) for legal advice about your case. If you encounter notario fraud, [report it!](#)
- If you know someone who is **in immigration detention** and is eligible for one of these programs, advise them to identify themselves to their case officer, or the ICE Information Line at 888-351-4024, and explain that they are eligible for one of these new programs.
- If you believe you are eligible, **begin preparing now** by gathering documents that prove:
 - that you *were in* the U.S. yesterday (on November 20, 2014),
 - that you *have been in* the U.S. since January 1, 2010, and
 - that you have a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident son or daughter.
 (Read our [Top Ten Ways You Can Prepare for Executive Action on Immigration](#).)
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LOS ANGELES (Headquarters)
 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2850
 Los Angeles, CA 90010
 213 639-3900
 213 639-3911 fax



WASHINGTON, DC
 1121 14th Street, NW, Suite 200
 Washington, DC 20005
 202 216-0261
 202 216-0266 fax