

Executive Summary



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

National Listening Session on Expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) January 13, 2015

On January 13, 2015 USCIS hosted a national listening session on the expansion of deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA). There were 1,114 participants on the call, including representatives of community and faith-based organizations, school districts, adult education programs, attorneys, state and local government representatives and congressional offices. During the engagement, USCIS provided an overview of the changes to DACA under the recent executive actions and sought stakeholder feedback on the obstacles individuals face in requesting DACA as well as the messaging and outreach strategies that would be most effective in disseminating information about DACA expansion.

Participants identified a number of challenges that may impede individuals' willingness to request consideration of DACA, including difficulty obtaining proof of presence in the U.S., particularly for individuals who were not continuously in school or were paid in cash for their employment, as well as a common perception that individuals whose DACA requests are denied will be placed into removal proceedings. Stakeholders also suggested USCIS further clarify continuous residence, physical presence and criminal history guidelines for expanded DACA and confirm whether there will be any revisions to existing advance parole procedures for DACA recipients. Some participants shared feedback on the implementation process, including asking USCIS to publish the revised Form I-821D in the Federal Register for public comment and emphasizing the importance of maintaining existing processing times. Other callers sought guidance on processes for requesting replacement employment authorization documents and obtaining missing receipt notices.

Stakeholders recommended hosting additional outreach events in the evenings, translating DACA educational materials into more languages and clarifying the differences between DACA and deferred action for parents of Americans and LPRs (DAPA) and providing guidance on whether individuals with pending applications for other benefit types are eligible to request DACA. Other areas needing clarification include the DACA guidelines, particularly which guidelines have changed under expanded DACA and which have remained the same. In addition, participants suggested that individuals may be more likely to request DACA if USCIS provided assurance that requesting DACA does not increase the chances that an individual or his or her family member will be placed in removal proceedings, unless that individual is found to be an enforcement priority. Participants were encouraged to join the DAPA listening session on January 26.

