**PRESIDENT OBAMA’S ANNOUNCEMENT ON IMMIGRATION**

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced executive actions to address problems in our immigration system, including creation of the **Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) Program** and expansion of the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program.**

**What are the Benefits of Deferred Action?**

•You can stay in the United States for three years without fear of being deported.

•You can obtain a work permit.

•You can obtain a Social Security Number.

•You can obtain a driver’s license.

DAPA and DACA do not provide permanent residency, and I not a path to citizenship.

**DEFERRED ACTION FOR PARENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY (DAPA) PROGRAM**

|  |
| --- |
| **WHO QUALIFIES?**  To qualify for DAPA, you must:   * Be the parent of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (“green card holder”) son or daughter born on or before November 20, 2014; * Have lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010; * Be here in the U.S. on November 20, 2014 *and* on the date you apply for deferred action; * Have no lawful immigration status in the U.S. on November 20, 2014; and * Submit to, and pass, security and criminal background checks.   ● If you have ever been arrested or convicted of a crime, or associated with gangs, or if you are unsure about your criminal history, you should get a copy of your criminal history and talk to an attorney to learn if you are eligible for DAPA. |
| **WHEN CAN I APPLY?**   * The government is not accepting applications now. They expect to begin accepting applications in approximately 180 days (around May 20, 2015). |
| **WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE NOW?**   * Gather documents to see if you qualify for the program. * It is best to collect documents that have the following information: your name, the date, and show that you were in the United States. * See attached form about gathering documents. |
| **BEWARE OF FRAUD!**   * There is no way to apply for DAPA yet. The application process will begin in the spring of 2015, most likely in May. * Don’t believe anybody who says they can sign up for DAPA now. * Information will continue to develop. Consult trusted resources now. * See information sheet about to how to avoid fraud. |

**EXPANDED DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) PROGRAM**

|  |
| --- |
| **WHO QUALIFIES?**  The basic requirements:   * Be at least 15 years old. * Entered the U.S. when you were less than 16 years old. * Have lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010. * Were present in the U.S.on June 15, 2012. * Have graduated from high school or have obtained a GED; or are now enrolled in a school; or are a military veteran. If you do not comply with these educational requirements, you should immediately enroll in a class (GED, ESL, professional program.)   Most of the requirements for DACA have not changed, but there are some changes that may allow more people to qualify. Here are the changes to DACA:   * There is no longer an age cap. If you were told before that you were too old to qualify for DACA this may mean that you now qualify as long as you meet the other criteria. * The President changed how long you must have lived in the United States to qualify for DACA. Before, you were required to show that you lived in the U.S. since June 15, 2007. *Now*, DACA will cover people who have lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010. * DACA and a work permit will be for three-year periods. Starting November 24, 2014, people who apply for DACA for the first-time or to renew, will receive deferred action and permission to work for three years. If you have already been approved for DACA renewal, it is still valid for two years, but check for updates because the government is looking into ways of extending it to three years. * If you have ever been arrested or convicted of a crime, or associated with gangs, or if you are unsure about your criminal history, you should get a copy of your criminal history and talk to an attorney to learn if you are eligible for DACA. * Visit the USCIS website to learn more about the other requirements: [www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals](http://www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals). |
| **WHEN CAN I APPLY?**   * If you meet the old criteria for DACA, you can apply now. * However, if you qualify for DACA under the new criteria, you will have to wait to apply. USCIS will begin accepting applications under the new criteria on February 18, 2015. |
| **WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE NOW?**   * Gather documents to see if you qualify for the program. * It is best to collect documents that have the following information: your name, the date, and show that you were in the United States. * See attached form about gathering documents. |
| **BEWARE OF FRAUD!**   * Consult trusted resources only! * See information sheet about to how to avoid fraud. |

**RESOURCES**

* For more information from the government go to [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)
* For information about upcoming information and documentation preparation sessions in Pennsylvania visit [www.paimmigrant.org](http://www.paimmigrant.org) or call (215) 832-0895
* Find Legal Help and Resources on How to Prepare to Apply <http://www.adminrelief.org/legalhelp/>
  + - How to Get Your Criminal Records
    - How to Get a Copy of Your Immigration File
    - How to Get a Passport or Identity Document for Mexican Nationals