



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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José L. Banda, Superintendent

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September 30, 2014

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Dear High School Principals and Counselors,

Sacramento City Unified School District, in partnership with a number of institutions participating in the *Steps to College* initiative, is targeting high school senior students who may benefit from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) federal program.

DACA provides qualified students with temporary deportation relief, a valid work permit and a Social Security number, among other benefits. This provides an excellent opportunity for some of our students to temporarily solve their immigration uncertainties and focus on the pursuit of higher education. Unfortunately, as of today, more than half of the young people who qualify for DACA have not applied to obtain its benefits, either for lack of information or due to perceived legal or financial hurdles.

DACA Requirements

Students qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals if they:

- Came to the United States before turning 16 years old
- Have resided continuously in the US since June 15, 2007
- Were under the age of 31 on June 15, 2012
- Have obtained a high school diploma, a GED* certificate, or are currently enrolled in high school or GED courses
- Have not been convicted of a felony or a significant misdemeanor
- Were present in the US, undocumented, on June 15, 2012

*GED or any other equivalent state authorized exam is accepted for DACA purposes.

To overcome some of the legal and financial obstacles they may face in their application process, the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento is offering a **\$300 reimbursement** to interested qualifying students. Please encourage any seniors who may qualify for DACA to contact the following consular officials, who will provide information on the available resources for them:

- Rodrigo Báez, Consul for Legal Affairs, at (916) 329-3508, jbaez@sre.gob.mx
- Gabriela Barron, Legal Affairs Dept., at (916) 329-3524, abarron@sre.gob.mx

We appreciate your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

José L. Banda
Superintendent



CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT 1st TIME DACA APPLICANTS

Sept 2014

THE CAMPAIGN

As many young immigrants have not taken advantage from DACA yet, due to a lack of funds to cover their applications fees or because they are not enrolled in School, the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento, the civic organization “Cien Amigos” and the Mexican Cultural Center for Northern California (MCCNC) have joined efforts in order to support DACA applicants by forming a coalition of key actors with the purpose of assisting applicants with the costs of their applications.

Cien Amigos and MCCNC have allocated funds equal to \$30,000 dollars from their annual scholarship drive. Also, the Consulate General of Mexico was able to assign a \$30,000 dollars matching fund from its Consular Protection budget, to this same cause.

With these funds, we expect to benefit 200 hundred DACA eligible students with a partial reimbursement grant of \$300 dollars each.

WHAT DO WE ASK FROM YOU? A \$30,000 matching fund to benefit an additional group of 100 students, in order to reach 300 beneficiaries this year.

TARGET GROUPS

- ⇒ High school students eligible for DACA (see requirements on page 3).
- ⇒ Potential DACA beneficiaries whose only obstacle to apply is the education requirement.

GOALS

- ⇒ **MAIN:** Benefit at least 300 students with a \$300 dls e/a reimbursement grant for DACA related fees (\$465 dls).
- ⇒ Increase the number of DACA beneficiaries among undocumented students.
- ⇒ Raise educational attainment in the adult immigrant population.
- ⇒ Bring together a coalition of different organizations with the joint goal of providing targeted groups with necessary means to benefit from DACA.
- ⇒ Employ the advantageous strategic position of the Mexican Consulate to reach out for target groups.

KEY INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

A. School Districts (High Schools)

- ⇒ Have distributed a letter to high school students promoting DACA and referring them to the Consulate for advice and assistance.
- ⇒ Counselors and principals will encourage students to benefit from the project.

B. School Districts (Adult Education Schools)

- ⇒ Have distributed a standardized letter for adult school enrollees to be used for DACA purposes for potential beneficiaries.
- ⇒ Will provide the Consulate with a list of designated education centers located within correspondent school districts, capable of receiving GED students referred by the Consulate.
- ⇒ Will enroll and register students and provide them with proof of valid enrollment sufficient to fulfill the DACA educational requirement.

C. Immigration Attorneys and Organizations (if needed)

- ⇒ Preferential fee of \$450.00 for DACA applications.
- ⇒ Payment Plan: A three month installment plan (\$150 dollar a month).

D. The Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento will:

- ⇒ Reach out for target group individuals.
- ⇒ Provide information about DACA (including list of available adult school centers).
- ⇒ Perform initial DACA eligibility screening (see below for specific requirements).
- ⇒ Follow up with applicants, to complete their DACA applications.
- ⇒ Be a focal point for contact to Mexican community.
- ⇒ Launch a media campaign to promote the project.
- ⇒ Provide a \$30,000 fund (100 reimbursement grants for the amount of \$300 dls each to DACA applicants).

E. Cien Amigos and the MCCNC will:

- ⇒ Provide a \$30,000 fund (100 reimbursement grant for the amount of \$300 dls each to DACA applicants).
- ⇒ Promote the project through their social network in order to reach for target group individuals.

PROTOCOL TO DISTRIBUTE THE FUNDS

1. Applications will be received from September 1st and will close after having benefitted 300 applicants.
2. Reimbursements will be authorized on first come first serve basis.
3. To qualify for reimbursement, applicants must be eligible for DACA.

4. A \$300 dollars check will be issued to the applicant in exchange of proof of payment made to USCIS for the amount of \$465 dollars dated after August 18th related to his/her DACA application.
5. Applicants must be currently enrolled in school, either in high school or in an adult school program valid for DACA purposes.
6. In case of minor applicants (under 18) check will be issued to one parent or tutor.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

DACA is the federal government immigration program to benefit with protection from deportation, working permit and social security number for 2 (two) years, individuals who:

- 1) Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012
- 2) Came to the United States before reaching 16 years old
- 3) Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time
- 4) Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012
- 5) Have a clean criminal record and
- 6) Have graduated from High School, obtained a GED or is currently enrolled in school (includes adult school programs).

ADDITIONAL FACTS

- The number of total potential DACA beneficiaries was estimated in 2.1 million. Of those, only approximately 650,000 have applied as of July 2014¹. Therefore there is 1.5 million potential beneficiaries have not applied yet.
- 22% (423,000) of the potentially eligible population meets age requirements but appear not to meet the education criteria because they do not have a high school diploma or equivalent and are not enrolled in school².
- Of those potentially eligible, approximately 122,000 reside in California³.
- In addition, thousands of undocumented high school students who graduate or turn 15 years old become eligible for DACA each year.
- DACA-eligible youth are by large a low income population to whom the application fee (\$465) may pose a significant obstacle to apply a d benefit.⁴

¹ DACA at the Two-Year Mark: A National and State Profile of Youth Eeligible and Applying for Deferred Action. Migration Policy Institute, August, 2014.

² Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals at the One-Year Mark. A profile of Currently Eligible Youth and Applicants, Migration Policy Institute, August, 2013

³ Who and Where the DREAMers Are, Revised Estimates, Immigration Policy Center, America Immigration Policy, Oct, 2013

⁴ DACA at the Two-Year Mark: A National and State Profile of Youth Eeligible and Applying for Deferred Action. Migration Policy Institute, August, 2014.