**UPDATE ON DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS**

“USCIS [announced](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcliniclegal.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dd1e29c8d7ab34d84237ecd8ee%26id%3D7855aa6085%26e%3De56d5577f3&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cf6a1c74cebd94c7e1dbd08d89bc265dd%7Ca54192d98f824167ba15f0159a5c6254%7C0%7C0%7C637430607172590490%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=78Yzt3J79iNk%2FyehyyHLfSic7zowaHBR3HzpCy%2FjhZ8%3D&reserved=0) in the evening of Monday, Dec. 7, 2020, that it is now accepting the following applications and that they will be adjudicated based on the terms of the DACA policy in effect prior to its attempted termination on Sept. 5, 2017:

* Initial or first-time DACA applications ([Form I-821D](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcliniclegal.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dd1e29c8d7ab34d84237ecd8ee%26id%3Dd203918fd6%26e%3De56d5577f3&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cf6a1c74cebd94c7e1dbd08d89bc265dd%7Ca54192d98f824167ba15f0159a5c6254%7C0%7C0%7C637430607172590490%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=vXGaltekMqw3P%2FUCyBqyxBpvdAF6dKnM1lwgulhagFA%3D&reserved=0));
* Renewal DACA applications; and
* Advance Parole ([Form I-131](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcliniclegal.us8.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dd1e29c8d7ab34d84237ecd8ee%26id%3Dbdef900aa7%26e%3De56d5577f3&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cf6a1c74cebd94c7e1dbd08d89bc265dd%7Ca54192d98f824167ba15f0159a5c6254%7C0%7C0%7C637430607172600485%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=zdrHDilDrZx7f9H9zdIS4Pv2RJ1Unljj1VTpvZogjMo%3D&reserved=0)) applications for DACA recipients.

USCIS is also taking the following actions based on the judge’s order:

* Extending the 65,800 one-year grants of deferred action under DACA to two years; and
* Extending one-year employment authorization documents under DACA to two years.”

The court’s Order requires USCIS to provide evidence of these extensions to all DACA recipients who received one-year grants on or after July, 28, 2020. This evidence may arrive by mail; be sure DACA holders’ addresses are updated in USCIS’s records.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**WHAT THIS MEANS AND WHAT CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS DOING**

**Advance Parole (travel documents):**

As of now, DACA recipients are permitted to apply for Advance Parole. This should be based on the previous guidelines, which states that Advance Parole must be based on one of the following reasons: Employment, Education, or Humanitarian. Examples of Humanitarian would be a sick relative, death of a relative, a major surgery, or other. And as before, you must be able to document this reason. At this time, however, **Catholic Charities is NOT assisting with Advance Parole. We feel that, given the current Administration, issues related to Covid-19, and the upcoming holidays, it is better for DACA recipients to wait until the new year**. There is also talk of the current administration seeking relief from this order. That means, the new order by the Judge to reinstate DACA and Advance Parole could come to a halt again. Catholic Charities will wait until after the new year and will reassess at that time whether to assist with Advance Parole. We ask that DACA recipients be patient with the process and with Catholic Charities as we navigate the inconsistencies of these times. Please check back with us after the holidays.

**DACA Renewals**

As mentioned above, USCIS will again begin giving 2-year DACA and work permits. Catholic Charities will continue to assist with renewals. Please note that appointments before the holidays are either very limited or no longer available due to high demand. Therefore, we suggest waiting until after the holidays to schedule for assistance with your DACA renewal process. For those whose DACA will be expiring in the next 3-4 months, feel free to reach out to us and we will schedule **if we have availability**.

Please also note that USCIS will be working to provide documentation for those DACA recipients who recently received a 1-year work permit. The documentation will extend the status to 2 years. Further details are not yet known at this point.

**Initial DACAs**

Applicants for Initial DACA are encouraged to begin preparing their documents. Collecting enough documents to satisfy the requirements may take a while because the applicant must show physical presence in the U.S. from June 15, 2007 until the current time (13 years). Catholic Charities can provide more details about the requirements and collecting documents. Feel free to ask us for this.

For those who believe that they have ALL documents and are ready to begin the process, Catholic Charities may schedule a time to assist you **if we have availability before the holidays**. We will certainly schedule for after the holidays if nothing is available at this time. We may also ask that you check back with us after the holidays. Please note, that the new year is only 4-5 weeks away. We ask that you be patient with the timeline, and we will be sure to assist you as quickly as we can.

**General Information about Services**

Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services is still fully Remote. That means that we will be conducting all appointments over video chat, phone, or online. We have been able to maintain full services despite this and believe that you will still receive excellent service though we may not meet in person. At this time, we will continue to be remote until further notice. We will continue to evaluate when it will be appropriate to schedule in-person appointments again. Until that time, we thank you for your patience with us.

1. Information from Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)