



CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK, INC.

Deferred Action For Dreamers: Are You Eligible? How Can You Get Ready To Apply?

On June 15, 2012, immigration officials announced a new “deferred action” program that provides eligible applicants with two-year temporary legal status which may be renewed. To qualify for this deferred action program, an applicant must meet these requirements:

1. Arrival in the U.S. before age 16
2. Lived in the U.S. since June 15, 2007, and present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012
3. Currently in school, OR graduated from high school, OR has a GED certificate OR honorable discharge from the U.S. Coast Guard or Armed Forces
4. Never convicted of a felony conviction OR three or more misdemeanors, OR a single “significant” misdemeanor
5. No conduct posing a threat to public safety or national security
6. Not over age thirty
7. At least fifteen years old at time of application

UNLESS YOU ARE IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS, YOU CAN'T APPLY YET! There are currently no application forms or materials, and the application period will not start before August 15, 2012. While you wait, you can take these steps to be ready once the application period begins:

- **SEEK LEGAL ADVICE ONLY FROM AN ATTORNEY OR A BIA ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE**

Beware of notarios and others in your community who don't have the legal knowledge and credentials to provide immigration law counseling and services. Consult with an attorney or a [non-profit agency](#) recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals to determine if you are eligible to apply and to find out how to apply. You can find recognized non-profit agencies in the CLINIC network by visiting our website at www.cliniclegal.org.

- **GATHER EVIDENCE OF YOUR AGE AND IDENTITY**

Examples: Birth Certificate, Passport and/or a National Identity Document (Cedula)

- **GATHER EVIDENCE OF YOUR CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE IN THE U.S. SINCE JUNE 15, 2007**

Examples: School Transcripts, Medical Records, Employment Records, Bank Statements, Rent Receipts or Mortgage Payment Records, Tax Records, Church Records

- **GATHER EVIDENCE OF YOUR SCHOOLING OR MILITARY SERVICE**

Examples: School Transcripts, Report Cards, High School Diploma, GED Certificate, Military Discharge Papers

- **IF YOU HAVE ANY CRIMINAL RECORD, INCLUDING ARREST AS A JUVENILE, GATHER DOCUMENTS TO SHOW THE CRIME YOU WERE CHARGED WITH AND THE OUTCOME OF THE CASE**

The best way to find out if you have a criminal history that affects your eligibility is to get copies of any criminal records that relate to you, including any records relating to juvenile delinquency. Bring copies of your arrest and court records to an immigration attorney or [nonprofit agency legal worker](#) who can advise you on whether your record affects your eligibility for deferred action. Even if you think you may have a criminal record that disqualifies you, it is worthwhile to seek legal advice on this issue.

- **IF YOU AREN'T SURE WHETHER YOU HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD OR WHAT IT IS, GET A COPY OF YOUR "RAP SHEET"**

Contact an immigration attorney or [nonprofit agency](#) to find out how you can request a criminal history background check, called a "rap sheet", which will provide you with information about any times you might have been arrested.

- **IF YOU HAVE PENDING CRIMINAL CHARGES, SEEK IMMIGRATION LEGAL ADVICE**

Many criminal convictions will disqualify you from eligibility for this deferred action program. Do not plead guilty to a crime without being informed about the immigration consequences of a conviction, including how it may impact on your eligibility for deferred action.

- **DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT YOUR ELIGIBILITY! GET LEGAL COUNSELING TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY**