



## **DACA RENEWAL DELAYS - WHAT YOU CAN DO**

### **July 2021**

An estimated **100,000** DACA applications and renewal requests have gone unprocessed as of March 31. We have learned that many of you have been affected by this and we wanted to share with you what we've learn and adapted for you from NAKASEC, Immigrants Rising, and the National Immigration Law Center.

***First, it is crucial that you submit your DACA renewal on time.*** USCIS suggests that you submit your completed renewal application at least 150 days (5 months), but no later than 120 days (4 months), before your current DACA and employment authorization document (EAD) expire.

**TIP:** To help you figure out which specific dates are 150 and 120 days before your DACA expires, use NILC's DACA Renewal Calculator: [www.nilc.org/dacarenewalcalculator/](http://www.nilc.org/dacarenewalcalculator/)

If you have submitted your DACA renewal between the timeline above and your DACA application has not been approved and your DACA is about to expire, consider the following steps.

#### **Step 1**

##### **Check your case status online.**

Monitor your case's status by using USCIS's online ["My Case Status" tool](#).

Create a USCIS Electronic Immigration System ([USCIS ELIS](#)) online account to track the progress of your case.

#### **Step 2-**

##### **Submit an "outside normal processing time" inquiry by contacting the National Customer Service Center (NCSC)**

Contact the [National Customer Service Center \(NCSC\)](#) at 1-800-488-3111

You can submit an "outside normal processing time" inquiry with USCIS if your DACA renewal has been pending for 105 days (3.5 months) by contacting USCIS at 1-800-375-5283 or by submitting an inquiry online using [this online USCIS form](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

**TIP:** To see what is considered the normal processing time, go to <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/> and complete and submit the online form.



### Step 3-

#### Contact the USCIS Ombudsman's office

**Note:** Contact the Ombudsman's office only after you have contacted USCIS to inquire about a delay. The Ombudsman's office recommends that you do not contact it until after you've completed steps 1.

The Ombudsman's office reviews cases and may be able to provide you with information about yours. You can file a **Case Assistance Form DHS-7001** online with the USCIS Ombudsman at <https://cisomb.dhs.gov/oca/form7001.aspx>.

When you fill out the form, you should describe the effects that the delay will have on you. When you file the DHS-7001 form online, state in the form (a) the reason(s) you are making the request (for example, if you are at risk of losing a current or prospective job), (b) the steps you have already taken to learn about the status of your case, and (c) what the local USCIS field office has told you about your case.

Once you have completed and submitted the online form, you should be issued an Ombudsman-specific case number. For further assistance, you can contact the office by email at [cisombudsman@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:cisombudsman@hq.dhs.gov).

### Step 4-

#### Contact your congressional representative

Call your representative's and senators' offices and ask to speak with their *immigration caseworker*.

**TIP:** You can find out who your congresspeople are and get their contact information by entering your zip code at [www.house.gov/representatives/find/](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/) (to find your representative) and [www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm](http://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm) (to find your senators).

Start by getting the contact information for the congressperson's *district* or *field* office (their office that's closest to where you live) and call that office first to ask for help. Then if you can't get the help you need from the local office, you should contact the congressperson's office in Washington, DC, and follow that office's process for submitting an inquiry about your case.

Be prepared to provide information about your case, the reason you are calling, as well as your name, A-number, receipt numbers and dates, type of case, etc. If you believe your case needs to be handled on an emergency basis, explain the urgency of your case up front



and request that its handling be expedited. *State the problem you are facing as clearly as you can.*

#### **Step 5-**

#### **Reach out to a legal services provider.**

If the previous steps haven't worked, you should get in contact with a local legal service provider at [ImmigrationLawhelp.org](http://ImmigrationLawhelp.org)

**TIP:** Have all of these ready when following any of the steps:

- Your full name
- Your alien registration/USCIS number (A-number)
- Your application receipt numbers and receipt dates
- The expiration date of your DACA and employment authorization document (EAD)
- Information you provided in the renewal application forms (I-821D and I-765) (If you made copies of the forms before you submitted them, have them on hand so you can refer to them.)

***The above information was taken from the following three toolkits. It was abbreviated and adapted for TheDream.US Scholars.***

**[DACA Processing Delays Toolkit](#) from [NAKASEC](#)**

**[DACA updates](#) from [Immigrants Rising](#)**

**[Steps to Take if Your DACA Renewal is Delayed](#) from [NILC](#)**

#### **NOTE:**

*If you need help with any of the above steps, please contact [gaby.pacheco@thedream.us](mailto:gaby.pacheco@thedream.us).*