



***Please note: The following is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. We recommend you seek legal assistance to help you prepare your renewal, especially if your circumstances have changed or have had interactions with immigration or law enforcement since your last renewal.***

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

**March 2026**

DACA renewals are taking much longer for USCIS to process and in some cases, we are seeing significant delays. More often, DACA renewal applicants are receiving biometrics (fingerprinting) appointments and “requests for evidence”, which also extend processing times.

We know this situation affects many of you. To help, here are steps to ensure your renewal is filed on time—and what to do if the processing is delayed.

### **USCIS PROCESSING TIMES**

According to USCIS [“Case Processing Times,”](#) DACA renewals (form I-821D) are taking an estimated 3.5 months in 80% of cases.

USCIS strongly recommends applicants to **submit DACA renewals between 120 and 150 days** (4 to 5 months) before it expires, noting that:

- This window helps prevent your work permit from lapsing while you wait for a decision.
- Filing earlier than 150 days will not speed up the process.

**It is therefore crucial to submit your DACA renewal as close to 150 days (5 months) before your current DACA and employment authorization document (EAD, work permit) expires.**

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

## POTENTIAL DELAYS IN YOUR DACA RENEWAL: WHAT TO DO

*If your DACA renewal is taking longer than it should, please take these steps:*

**TIP:** Have all 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.)

### 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:

#### Place an inquiry into your case with USCIS

If your DACA renewal has been pending for more than 105 days (3.5 months) you can submit an "outside normal processing time" inquiry by contacting USCIS at 1-800-375-5283 or by submitting a [service request inquiry](#) online. **Form I-821D is not listed in the menu options, so use your Form I-765 receipt number to submit the request.**

### Step 3:

#### Reach out to your elected official for help

Contact one of the elected officials who represents you in Congress, either a U.S. Senator or your U.S. Representative.

**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 entering your state at [www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm](http://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm) (to find your senators).

- **File an online request with your Senator/Representative**, usually found under “help with a federal agency” on their website. Be prepared to provide information about your case, as well as your name, A-number, receipt numbers and dates, type of case, etc. You will have to share your address to confirm you live in their state/district and sign a privacy release form.
- **Follow up by phone:** If you don't hear back within a few days (or sooner if it's urgent), call their local office. If they still don't respond, call their Washington, D.C. office. (Numbers are available on their website.)
- **Ask for specific help:** Clearly explain your situation. Ask them to check your case status with USCIS and request USCIS to expedite your application if it is urgent.

#### **Step 4:**

##### **Place your own expedite request**

USCIS entertains [requests to expedite application processing](#) on a case-by-case basis, subject to discretion and supporting documentation. Qualifying criteria include severe financial loss, urgent humanitarian situations, nonprofit interests, government needs, or clear agency error. Please read USCIS guidance on this before submitting the expedite request. While not required, seek legal assistance if you want help preparing the expedite request—see Step 5.

#### **Step 5:**

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

If the previous steps haven't worked, you should seek legal help. Identify a local legal service provider [here](#).

#### **NOTE: NEW POLICY AFFECTING DACA APPLICANTS FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES**

The administration has announced a freeze on the processing of immigration applications of nationals from certain countries under the guise of security (39 countries) or use of public benefits (75 countries). We are now seeing USCIS pause some DACA adjudications from people from the countries on the lists.

We believe this is wrong and likely unlawful and are working with attorneys and congressional offices to find a resolution. However, please follow the same steps above and alert us about your situation by sending us an email to [Susan.Collins@thedream.us](mailto:Susan.Collins@thedream.us)

### **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR URGENT CASES**

If you are experiencing hardship due to your DACA expiring or you need additional support, please contact [susan.collins@thedream.us](mailto:susan.collins@thedream.us)

### **DACA FEES SUPPORT**

Through our partnership with Mission Asset Fund (MAF), TheDream.US is providing DACA renewal fee grants for current Scholars and Alumni. To apply, please visit: <https://forms.missionassetfund.org/t/kKnoPdEcxQus> If you are having trouble with your application you can email them at: [programs@missionassetfund.org](mailto:programs@missionassetfund.org)

### ***Sources for this Guidance***

Information above was referenced from the following: [Immigrants Rising](#), [CLINIC](#), and NILC's [Steps to Take if Your DACA Renewal is Delayed](#).