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Free Statewide Legal Services to Be Available Remotely on Texas DACA Day

Eligible Youth Can Obtain Legal Advice Regarding Work Authorization, Social Security Numbers and More via Online Chat and By Phone

AUSTIN, Texas – Eligible youth wanting to learn more about DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and its benefits will have access to free statewide legal services remotely. For youth who cannot attend one of the free legal clinics being offered around the state on DACA Day, Saturday, Aug. 16, advice and information can be accessed via [online live chats](#) and by phone, regardless of their location.

Texas DACA Day celebrates the second anniversary of the federal policy that provides opportunities to youth who were brought into this country as young children and have grown up in the United States, but did not have the ability to legally obtain a social security card and driver's license—among others—to more fully participate in our society and contribute to our economy.

“It is imperative that we provide the opportunities DACA presents to all Texas youth, whether it is in person, online or via telephone,” Betty Balli Torres, executive director of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, said. “There are thousands of young adults in Texas who have the ability to qualify for DACA and be afforded opportunities.”

-More-

Eligible youth who cannot physically attend a clinic on DACA Day may seek information by doing one of the following:

- [Live Chat](#) with an attorney from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug., 16
- Call 1-844-DACA-NOW (1-844-322-2669) during regular business hours, Monday-Friday.
- [Find](#) a provider of free or low cost DACA services in your county

Texas has the second-highest number of DACA-eligible youth in the nation behind California, with an estimated 147,000 that are currently eligible. Approximately 100,000 have applied; an estimated 47,000 have yet to apply. Many DACA-eligible youth have not applied due to inadequate information, lack of legal providers in rural areas, concerns of deportation and an inability to pay the filing fees, among other reasons.

For those who are eligible, DACA may provide the ability to apply for employment authorization, social security, a driver's license and protection from deportation. DACA is granted for a two-year period and may be renewed.

While there are specific requirements and documentation needed to qualify for the DACA program, a typical eligible person came to the U.S. before they were 16, has lived here for five years before June 15, 2012, and is currently in school or has graduated.

Texas DACA Day is sponsored by the Ford Foundation, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrant Refugees, Open Society Foundation, Texas Access to Justice Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy, and Univision. In collaboration with national funders, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation has provided grants to nine legal aid programs throughout the state to provide legal services for this underserved population.

The legal service providers coordinating the efforts include American Gateways; Boat People SOS; Cabrini Center (Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston); Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc.; Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services, Inc.; Equal Justice Center; Texas Civil Rights Project-Oficina Legal del Pueblo Unido; Refugee Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services; and St. Mary's University School of Law, Center for Legal and Social Justice.

For details about events to be held in various cities throughout the state, visit texaslawhelp.org/mydaca#.