



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

November 21, 2014

WHAT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ANNOUNCEMENT MEANS FOR MAINERS

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced he will use his legal authority to make some administrative changes to the immigration system. The President is doing this because Congress has failed to act to fix our broken immigration laws. The President's actions are limited, because only Congress can change the laws that would give permanent status that leads to citizenship. Congress still needs to pass a comprehensive bill that addresses all of the problems with our immigration laws.

These are the programs that will have the greatest impact on Mainers:

People who are eligible under either program will get deferred action (temporary protection from deportation) and work authorization for three years, and will be able to apply for a social security card and a driver's license. There will be other requirements, including criminal and national security checks, and application fees.

- **Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA):** This program is for parents of U.S. Citizen and permanent resident children, who have been in the U.S. since January 1, 2010.
- **Expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA):** The DACA program will be expanded to include those who entered the U.S. before the age of 16 and who have been here since January 1, 2010, regardless of how old they are now.

Who this will not help:

- This will **not** help people who **entered the U.S. after January 1, 2010** (including many recent asylum seekers).
- This will **not** help people who have been here for a long time, but who **entered after they turned 16 and who do not have U.S. Citizen or permanent resident children.**
- This will **not** give **permanent status or a path to citizenship** to anyone.

You cannot apply yet. Immigration has not yet announced the dates when you can start applying. The application period for DACA will begin within 90 days, and for DAPA within six months.

What to do if you think you might qualify:

- **Be careful of fraud.** Talk to an immigration lawyer to make sure you qualify. Immigration law is complicated. Some people, like "notaries," give wrong information that can get you deported.
- **Start to collect documents.** You will need: proof of identity, evidence you were in the U.S. on November 20, 2014 and have been here since January 1, 2010; proof of U.S. Citizen or permanent resident children; copies of all criminal records. Save money for the application fees.
- **Don't travel out of the country.** This will disqualify you.

How you can get help:

ILAP will be doing outreach throughout Maine, and will help people with the immigration applications. Call ILAP at 207-780-1593 if you would like to find out about outreach or to find out if you qualify.

Other administrative changes will affect people in certain circumstances. For more information, see the National Immigration Law Center <http://nilc.org> and Department of Homeland Security www.dhs.gov websites.