

# Los Angeles Times

## What's next for DACA and the nearly 800,000 people protected by it

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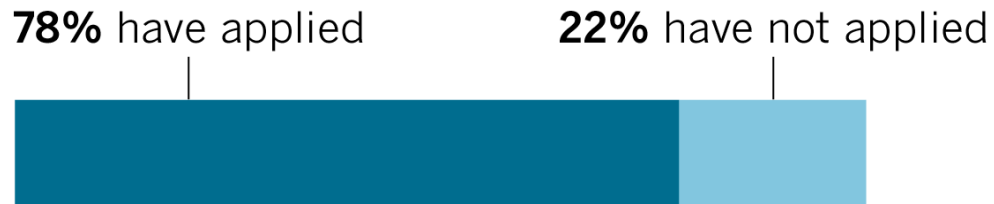
The Trump administration announced Tuesday that it will end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a program that protects children who were brought into the country illegally from deportation and allows them to work legally. DACA's fate now lies in the hands of Congress, which can choose to act to protect the program within the next six months. Here's what you need to know.

### How DACA works

On June 15, 2012, the Obama administration implemented DACA. Under the program, people who came to the United States as children and met several key guidelines would not face deportation for two years, and could then apply to renew their status as a DACA recipient. Immigrants who were approved would also be eligible for work authorization. Nearly 800,000 DACA recipients have received approval to go to school and work legally in the United States.

How many people does DACA affect? Of an estimated 1.1 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States in 2014, 78% had applied for protections under DACA, according to a Pew Research Center study.

### % of undocumented immigrants eligible for DACA

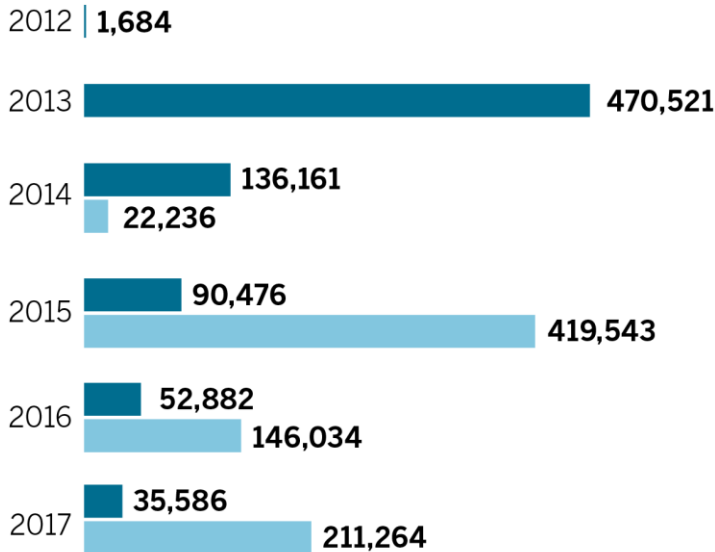


Source: Pew Research Center

People who receive work permits through DACA must renew them every two years. The number of people accepted to the program peaked in 2013, but initial acceptances into the program have lagged behind permit renewals in recent years.

### Approved DACA applications (2012-2017)

■ Initial application ■ Renewal application



Note: 2017 numbers are through March 31. Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

#### Who is in DACA?

When DACA became a reality in 2012, it gave a specific group of people protections against deportation. To receive those protections an individual had to have come to the United States prior to turning 16, but be younger than 31 years old. The individual also had to be in or have completed school, and could not have a criminal record.

Subsequent renewals of DACA permits also were contingent on meeting these requirements. Applications are no longer being accepted as of Tuesday.

While stopping short of providing a pathway to citizenship, DACA protection allowed recipients to lawfully hold a job or purchase a home. Recipients could attend college or join the military. And they could do these things without the threat of deportation.

#### Here's who has entered the program in the last five years:

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DACA recipients are young. In 2014, the largest age group of DACA recipients were individuals younger than 19.

## Age of individuals approved for DACA

19 and under



20 to 24



25 to 29

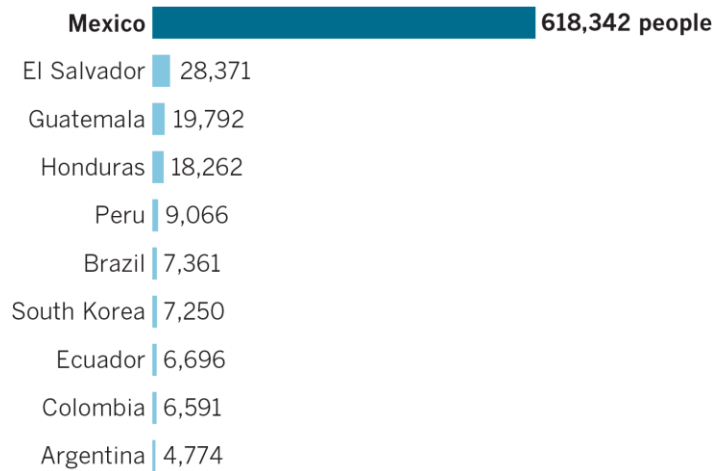


30 and over



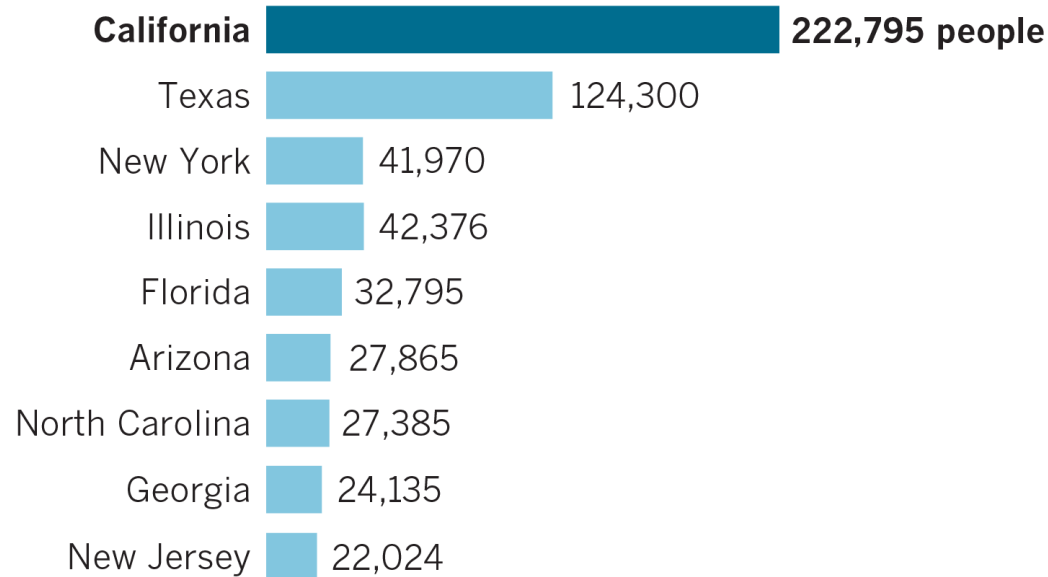
They are also overwhelmingly from Mexico, with a smaller percentage from Central American and South American countries.

## Top countries of origin for individuals approved for DACA



Although federal figures show that DACA recipients live in every state, most live in California, Texas and New York.

## Top residences of individuals approved for DACA



Source: U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

The vast majority of DACA recipients are educated and employed, according to data collected in an online survey by the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning think tank.

**91.4%** currently employed      **8.6%** not employed



**44.9%** in school      **55%** not in school



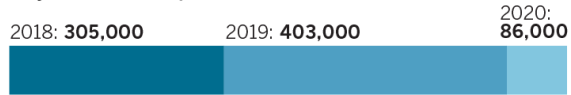
Source: Center for American Progress

The numbers present a different picture than the one painted by President Trump. In a [statement](#) announcing his decision to end DACA, Trump said the program led to an influx of people coming in across the border — many of them "young people who would become members of violent gangs throughout our country, such as MS-13."

What happens next?

Trump has turned to Congress to decide what comes next. If Congress does not pass new immigration legislation that addresses the program, current beneficiaries' deferred action would begin to expire. According to the Cato Institute, 305,297 immigrants would lose their work permits in 2018.

**Projected DACA expirations**

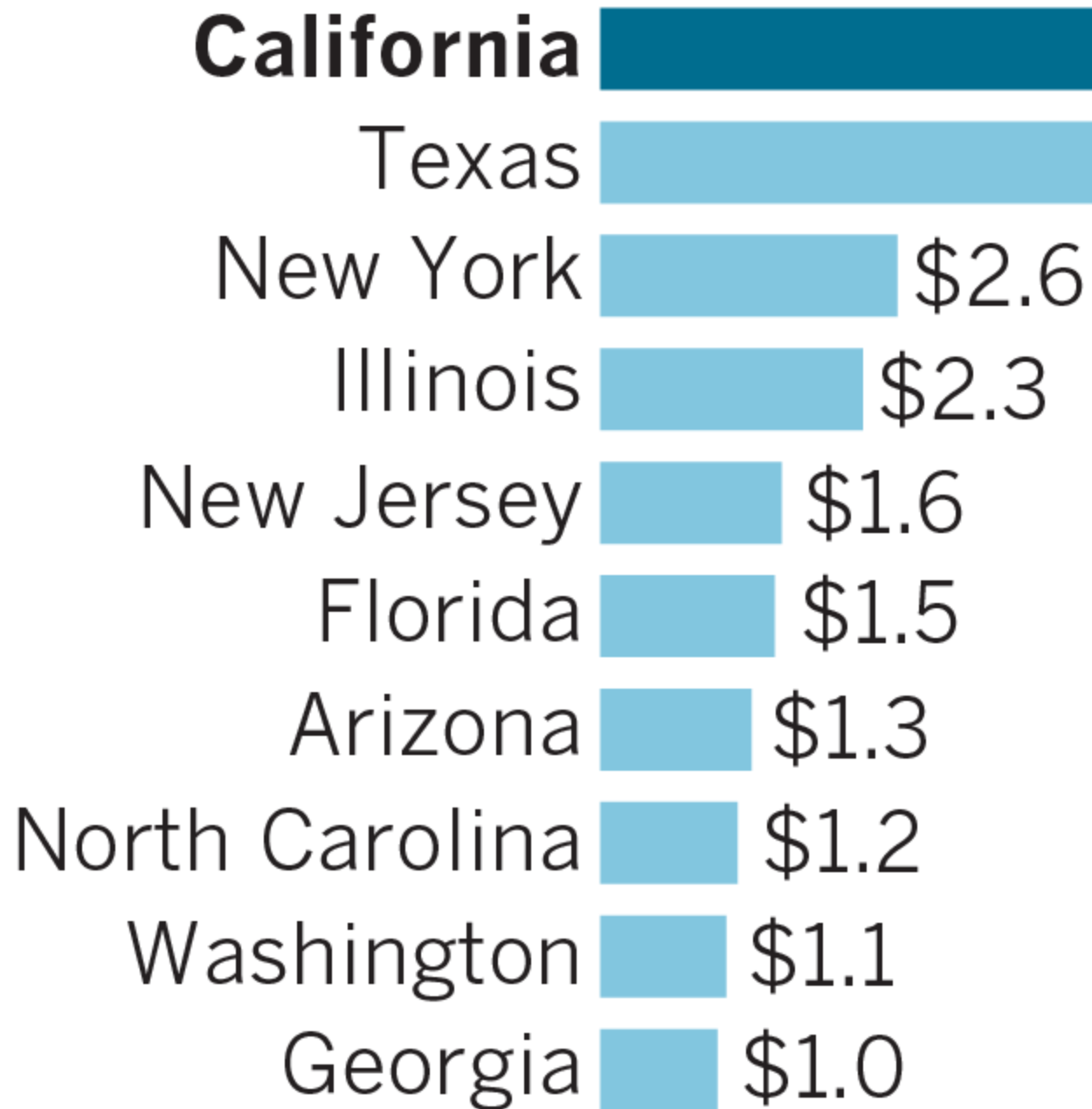


Source: Cato Institute

If current DACA recipients lost their work permits, many states could see a huge effect on their economies — and California would be hit harder than any other state. California would lose an estimated \$11.6 billion in gross domestic product, according to the Center for American Progress.

# Economic effects of ending DACA

Estimated loss in GDP from removing DACA recipients



Source: Center for American Progress

Despite his statement on Tuesday morning, Trump hinted that evening on Twitter that if Congress can't find an agreement on the program, he would take another look at it — but provided no other details.