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Summary of the DHS Announcement of Deferred Action for DREAM Eligible Youth

On June 15, 2012, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [announced](#) that it will offer deferred action on a case-by-case basis to youth who entered the U.S. before the age of 16 and meet certain criteria. In a [statement](#), Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration, welcomed the announcement on behalf of the Conference. “This important action will provide protection from removal and work authorization for a vulnerable group of immigrants who deserve to remain in our country and contribute their talents to our communities,” he said.

Under the [memorandum](#), individuals who demonstrate that they meet the following criteria will be eligible, on a case-by-case basis, to receive deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and will be eligible to apply for work authorization:

- Came to the U.S. under the age of 16 and are not above the age of 30;
- Are in the U.S. on 06/15/12 and continuously resided in the U.S. for a least 5 years;
- Are currently in school, have graduated from high school, have obtained a G.E.D. certificate, or are honorably discharged veterans of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the U.S.;
- Have not been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Individuals must also pass a background check. According to [DHS Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the announcement, the process for individuals who are not in removal proceedings is not yet in effect and those requests should not be submitted at this time. USCIS and ICE expect begin implementation of the application processes within 60 days, according to the announcement.

The action by the President today is no substitute for enactment of the DREAM Act in Congress, which would give these youth a path to citizenship and a chance to become Americans. Join the [Justice for Immigrants](#) campaign and [send a postcard to your members of Congress](#) urging them to support the DREAM Act.

Resources on the DHS Announcement

- [DHS Announcement on Deferred Action Process for Young People](#)
- [DHS June 15, 2012, Memorandum](#)
- [DHS FAQ on the Announcement](#)
- [USCCB Statement on the Announcement | En Español](#)
- [Action Alert: Light a Candle for the DREAM Act](#)