



# INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

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Dear Partners in Mission:

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an immigration policy that allows undocumented immigrants who have met certain conditions to be granted a renewable two-year exemption from deportation and other benefits such as obtaining a Social Security Card, Work Permit, Driver's License, and enrollment opportunity in higher education or employment training programs. To be eligible for DACA, the undocumented immigrants must have entered the United States before reaching their 16th birthday; been under 31 years of age as of June 15, 2012 (date this Presidential Executive Order on DACA was issued); have resided continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007; are currently enrolled in school or adult basic education program, or have obtained a High School Diploma or GED; and have not been convicted of a felony or significant misdemeanor. Please speak with a trusted immigration attorney or BIA accredited representative to learn more about DACA and your particular case.

According to the Migration Research Institute, since its launch in late 2012, DACA has provided temporary relief from deportation and eligibility for work authorization to more than 728,000 young undocumented immigrants, representing around half of the DACA-eligible population. It illustrates that as a compassionate administrative relief, DACA has succeeded in providing life-altering benefits to many undocumented youth and attracting broad participation, as evidenced by the fact that 93 percent of those eligible to apply for DACA renewal have done so after their two-year initial relief. Abundant success stories have demonstrated the multiple positive effects DACA has had on beneficiaries' lives, families, and communities.

As of March 2016, over half a million of DACA-eligible immigrants had not applied for this vital program, with Pennsylvania showing one of the lowest application rates in the country. To ensure that DACA benefits will continue to be available and accessible to the diverse undocumented immigrant populations, the International Service Center (ISC) has recently implemented a PA Is Ready Project in Central Pennsylvania as a modest extension of this important federal initiative. In partnership with Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC) in York and Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC) in Philadelphia, the ISC has been organizing a series of Information Screening Sessions and Legal Assistance Clinics in order to assist as many undocumented immigrants as possible in applying for DACA benefits. Trained volunteers and immigration attorneys from ISC and PIRC will provide free information sessions, eligibility screenings, and application assistance to the community.

Understanding your interests and concerns for the many challenges our immigrant communities face, we would be very grateful if you could share the attached announcement with those who could benefit from it.

Sincerely yours,

Truong N. Phuong  
Executive Director