



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) FAQs for Enrollers

Between November 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, DACA recipients were considered lawfully present for Covered California eligibility purposes and a DACA Special Enrollment Period (SEP) was available.

Starting July 1, 2025, for the purposes of Covered California eligibility, individuals who are under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are not considered lawfully present.

These individuals:

- Are not eligible to buy a Covered California health or dental insurance plan or receive financial help to lower their health plan's monthly premium payment because one of the requirements to buy health insurance through Covered CA is to be lawfully present.
- May be eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal depending on their income. They can apply for Medi-Cal through Covered California or at their local county Medi-Cal office.
- Can buy private health insurance on their own outside of Covered California directly from an insurance company or broker, regardless of their immigration status, during Open Enrollment or a Special Enrollment Period.
 - The loss of Covered California coverage is considered a qualifying life event for special enrollment as long as the loss of coverage was not due to nonpayment of premium, voluntary cancellation, or fraud.

General Questions

What is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a U.S. immigration policy that allows certain undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children to receive a deferred action from deportation and become eligible for a work permit. To be eligible for DACA, an individual must meet certain criteria set by the [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#).

Throughout its history, DACA status has helped hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children, often called "Dreamers." It stops them from being deported and allows them to work in the United States. Nonetheless, DACA does not offer a way to permanent residency or citizenship. This means that those under DACA are in a provisional state of protection, which can change depending on the political and legal climate.

What does Deferred Action mean?

Deferred action refers to a discretionary decision by immigration authorities to postpone the removal (deportation) of an individual who is unlawfully present in the United States. This does not provide legal status but grants temporary relief from deportation and allows the individual to remain in the country for a specified period. During this time, individuals may also be eligible for employment authorization.



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References and Resources

- Final Rule: [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Marketplace Integrity and Affordability](#)
- Code of Federal Regulations: [eCFR. 8 CFR 23622 — Discretionary determination](#)
- [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Frequently Asked Questions on DACA](#)
- [Department of Health Care Services — DACA Rescission Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Covered California Understanding Reasonable Opportunity Period \(ROP\) & Auto-Discontinuance](#)