

How Can Your Organization Help Get DAPA and DACA Families Covered?

People with DACA and DAPA status may be eligible for health coverage and there are many ways to help families. Here are some ideas to get you started:

▶ **Reach out to organizations that are planning to help immigrant families apply for DAPA and ask how your organization can help.**

Probably the best way to get started is to reach out to organizations in your state or local area likely to help with DAPA and DACA applications ask how you can help. Organizations are continuing to prepare as they wait for the court's decision. You can find organizations that will be providing immigration-related assistance by state and county at <http://www.adminrelief.org/legalhelp/>. Recognize that organizations planning to help immigrant families apply for DAPA and expanded DACA are likely to be overwhelmed with requests and are getting ready to handle large case volumes, and so they may need your assistance to include a health insurance component to the work.

▶ **Participate in and/or host community forums on DAPA and DACA, and include related practical concerns that families face, like health coverage, taxes and more.**

Many local organizations are already planning workshops and community educational sessions about DAPA and expanded DACA in advance of the programs' roll out. In addition to learning about DAPA and DACA and how to apply, families will be interested in learning about getting a driver's license, any changes in filing taxes, access to health care and coverage, and other family support programs. Being available to provide information about health coverage at these forums is a great idea.

▶ **Provide health-coverage enrollment assistance at locations where families will learn about DAPA and DACA.**

If you, or organizations you work with, provide health coverage outreach and enrollment assistance to children and families, reach out now to organizations in your community that are likely to help families learn about DAPA and DACA. Ask them if there are ways you can help support connecting children and families to coverage as parents learn about the DAPA and DACA programs. Remember that while open enrollment for Covered California is closed, Medi-Cal enrollment is open all year round.

▶ **Provide engaging, culturally competent, translated materials to post and share with families applying for DAPA and DACA.**

DAPA and DACA legal clinics and services will often have an "exit" table where they share packets with important information like, how do you get driver's license, where can you access health care services, what other programs are you or your children eligible for. Partner with immigrant organizations in your community to create posters and handouts that let parents know that it is "safe to apply" for health coverage for their children. Materials may also need to educate parents about why health insurance is important for children and its benefits. To view examples of materials, visit www.allinforhealth.org/undocumented.

► **Advocate for California to provide affordable health coverage options for all immigrants similar to those options provided to DAPA, DACA and other lawfully present immigrants.**

One of the best ways to get children into coverage is by covering their parents as well. California is one of few states that automatically covers DAPA parents and DACA grantees under 138 percent of poverty in a state-funded version of Medi-Cal. However, low and moderate income families with slightly higher incomes may not have an affordable coverage option because they are not eligible for federal premium tax credits to help them purchase coverage in Covered California, California's state run health insurance marketplace. As this brief went to publication, California passed a budget bill (SB 75) that includes health coverage for all children up to 266 percent of the federal poverty level regardless of immigration status. Coverage can begin in May 2016, and the bill is estimated to cover 170,000 children. Two related proposals to expand coverage for immigrants continue to move through the California legislature. The first would provide state-funded Medi-Cal coverage to low income adults who meet income qualifications but are currently denied full scope Medicaid based on their immigration status (SB 10). The second directs the state to seek permission from the federal government to allow individuals who are not lawfully present in California to purchase non-subsidized health coverage through Covered California (SB 4).

► **You can also help families in need of health coverage learn about DAPA and DACA.**

Training health coverage intake or outreach staff on recognizing if someone might be eligible for DAPA and DACA and referring them to appropriate place to learn more would also be helpful. As part of this, knowing what documentation individuals need to provide is key. In some cases, documentation from health care providers may be helpful to prove families and children have been in the country—for instance to prove birth of a child, or to use vaccinations or other doctors' appointment to prove U.S. residence. Immigrant-oriented organizations are working on outreach campaigns to educate individuals about DACA in the same way health coverage-focused organizations run campaigns about enrollment in coverage.

To see the complete report on what immigration relief for parents and youth means for health coverage in California, go to <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/all/immigration-relief-parents-youth-whole-family-health-coverage-california/>.

To see materials from California's ALL IN campaign, go to www.allinforhealth.org/undocumented.