



Frequently Asked Questions for Lawfully Present Students (DACA) – Updated 4/2019

Eligibility

1. How will the Trump Administration’s announcement about the rescinding of the DACA program impact DSF’s support for undocumented/Dreamer/DACA students?

On September 5, 2017, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the DACA program will be rescinded (ended). The administration said that the decision would take effect as current approvals/employment authorizations expire. However, the end of the DACA program is currently on hold pending a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, which has scheduled a hearing for February 16, 2018.

DSF will continue to provide scholarship support to eligible students who are lawfully present in the U.S. through the DACA program for as long as their DACA approval remains valid.

DSF is monitoring this issue closely and is committed to working with our college and community partners to identify ways to provide support to our DACA scholars if the program ends. We will provide updates as information becomes available.

Because this situation continues to change rapidly, please visit the National Immigration Law Center at www.nilc.org/issues/daca/ or contact an immigration attorney, for the most up to date information regarding the status of the DACA program. Information about the status of the program is also available at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-response-january-2018-preliminary-injunction>

2. What requirements must I meet in order to become a DSF Finalist?

To become a DSF Finalist, you must meet the eligibility criteria and deadlines listed below.

1. Have been enrolled in a Denver Public Schools (DPS) high school by October 1 to be included in the October Count for all four (4) years of high school (or each year of your high school career for students who complete in less than four years); and
2. Apply for the DSF Scholarship by April 1 of the year following your high school graduation; and
3. Graduate from a DPS high school with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
4. Demonstrate financial need by applying and qualifying for Free/Reduced-Price meal benefits at some point during high school.
5. Be lawfully present in the United States or apply to be lawfully present in the United States.
6. Submit valid proof of lawful presence.

Visit www.denverscholarship.org/newchecklist for the complete list of requirements new applicants must complete in order to be considered for a scholarship award.

Last updated April 12, 2019.

The DSF Scholarship Policy may be changed any time at the discretion of the Denver Scholarship Foundation.

3. May I submit the DSF Scholarship application if I don't have a Social Security Number?

Yes, you may submit the DSF Scholarship application if you do not have a Social Security Number. On the 2019-20 DSF online application, available at portal.denverscholarship.org beginning in early February 2019, you will be asked to indicate your status as of today:

- United States Citizen
- Legal Permanent Resident
- Have obtained lawful presence in the United States as a refugee or asylee
- Have obtained lawful presence through Deferred Action
- Are in the process of obtaining Deferred Action (DACA) (have a pending DACA application on file with USCIS)
- Other/Don't Know

Answer this question according to your status and provide a social security number if you have one.

4. What must I submit in order to confirm that I am lawfully present in the United States?

The DSF Scholarship is awarded to students who are able to submit valid proof of their lawful presence in the United States and meet all other requirements. As part of the online DSF scholarship application, applicants who are not eligible for federal student aid (including DACA students) must sign an affirmation of their lawful presence. DACA students (and others who are not eligible for federal aid) must also submit documentation to confirm their lawful presence to DSF by July 15, 2019 for the 2019-20 academic year. ***You must submit proof of your lawful presence to DSF every year that you apply for the DSF scholarship.***

Acceptable documentation of lawful presence includes a copy of one of the following:

- a. The front of a valid Employment Authorization Document; or
- b. Form I-797 Approval Notice or Form I-821D (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) showing that it is currently valid; or
- c. Any List A document or combination of List B and C documents from the Department of Homeland Security's List of Acceptable Documents (located at the following link: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-9.pdf>).

If your documents have an expiration date before July 15, 2019, you must provide updated documentation to confirm your lawful presence in the United States to DSF by July 15. Visit www.denverscholarship.org/lawfulpresence for more information.

If you have questions about what documents are accepted as proof of lawful presence by DSF, contact us at www.denverscholarship.org/contactus or 303-640-6564.

5. I applied for the DSF Scholarship, and I have a pending renewal application for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), but I have not been notified of the status of my DACA application. Can I still receive the DSF Scholarship in 2019-20?

Students may apply for the DSF Scholarship before they receive confirmation of their lawful presence in the United States or renewal of their DACA authorization. However, you must submit proof of valid lawful presence and must meet all other scholarship requirements to qualify for a scholarship award.

If you have not received approval of your DACA application in time to submit it to DSF by July 15, 2019, please notify DSF that you are waiting. We will then accept your proof as soon as you receive it (and will process your scholarship award once you send it to us, assuming you meet all other DSF requirements).

6. How is financial need determined for the DSF Scholarship for students who are not eligible for federal student financial aid?

To demonstrate financial need for the DSF Scholarship, students who are not eligible for federal student financial aid and are lawfully present in the United States must have applied and qualified for Free/Reduced-Price meal benefits at some point during high school.

DSF will work with DPS to confirm your qualification for Free/Reduced-Price meal benefits. As part of the online application for the DSF Scholarship, you and your parent or legal guardian must sign an authorization for DPS to report the Free/Reduced-Price meal benefit information to DSF.

7. I am lawfully present in the United States, but I graduated before 2018 and have never applied for DSF. Can I still apply for the DSF Scholarship?

For the 2019-20 DSF Scholarship application, you must have graduated from a DPS high school in 2018 or 2019 to be eligible to apply for the DSF Scholarship as a New Applicant.

8. I am lawfully present in the United States, but I did not attend a DPS high school for four years. Can I still apply for the DSF Scholarship?

Unfortunately, you must have been enrolled in a DPS high school by October 1 to be included in the October count for all four years of high school. If you completed high school in less than four years, you must have been enrolled in a DPS high school by October 1 each year of your high school career.

9. How are DSF Scholarship requirements different for students who are and are not eligible for federal student financial aid?

Most of the scholarship requirements are the same. However, students who are **not** eligible for federal student financial aid and are lawfully present in the United States must:

- Demonstrate financial need by applying and qualifying for Free/Reduced Price meal benefits at some point during high school; and
- Sign an Information Release for DPS to provide Free/Reduced-Price meal benefits information to DSF as part of the online DSF application; and
- Sign an Affirmation of Lawful Presence as part of the online DSF application; and
- Submit proof of your lawful presence in the United States to DSF by July 15; and
- Complete your financial aid requirements to be considered for institutional financial aid at your college no later than July 15; and
- Complete the requirements to be considered for Colorado ASSET in-state tuition at your college (if applicable) no later than July 15.

Along with their other DSF requirements, applicants who **are** eligible for federal student financial aid must:

- Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) no later than April 1 each year that they are applying for DSF
- If notified by DSF, submit proof by May 20 of FAFSA submission by the April 1 deadline
- Demonstrate financial need through a qualifying Expected Family Contribution (EFC) after financial aid verification is complete (visit [Demonstrating Financial Need](#) for more details on how DSF determines financial need for students eligible for federal student financial aid)

Receiving and Renewing the DSF Scholarship

1. If I am no longer considered lawfully present in the United States, can I still receive the DSF Scholarship?

Once you become a DSF Finalist, you are eligible for scholarship consideration for up to four (4) consecutive years, as long as you continue to be lawfully present in the United States, and you meet the DSF Scholarship Renewal Application requirements. You must submit valid proof of lawful presence by July 15 each year you apply for or renew the DSF scholarship to be eligible.

DSF will continue to provide scholarship support to eligible students who are lawfully present in the U.S. through the DACA program for as long as their DACA approval remains valid.

DSF is working with our college and community partners to identify ways to provide support to our DACA scholars as their current authorizations expire and if the DACA program ends. We will provide updates as information becomes available.

2. If I am no longer lawfully present in the United States, will I have to pay back the DSF Scholarship I already received?

No, if you met all of the DSF Scholarship requirements at the time you received a DSF Scholarship award, you will not have to pay back the scholarship if you are no longer lawfully present in the United States.

Your loss of lawful presence, however, will unfortunately affect your ability to receive future DSF Scholarship awards. Check with your college's Office of Financial Aid to understand what impact any change in your lawful presence may have on other scholarships or financial aid you receive.

3. If I obtain legal status to reside in the United States, how will that affect my future DSF Scholarship eligibility?

DSF Scholars have the opportunity to renew the DSF Scholarship for up to four years. Each year, you will need to meet all of the DSF Scholarship renewal application requirements in effect at that time.

If your immigration status changes and you become a U.S. citizen or Legal Permanent Resident, please notify DSF so that we can update our records. Changes to your immigration status will change what your annual DSF requirements are. You should also notify your college financial aid office, because you will likely be eligible for federal student aid.

4. Can I study abroad with the DSF Scholarship?

The DSF Scholarship can be used for study abroad programs offered through a DSF-eligible college, as long as you are meeting all other scholarship requirements. However, immigration guidance should be considered before any decision on study abroad is made. If you decide to study abroad, please contact your DSF Campus Contact and financial aid office to make a plan to meet your DSF requirements while you are studying abroad.

CAUTION: you should seek expert legal guidance if you are considering leaving the United States to ensure that you are properly prepared to re-enter the U.S. Guidelines for [advance parole](#) for DACA recipients are determined by USCIS alone; DSF unfortunately cannot advise you about how study abroad might impact your re-entry into the U.S.

5. How much is the DSF Scholarship?

The amount of a student's DSF Scholarship depends on their eligibility for federal student financial aid, financial need, DSF Cohort, and the college they attend.

Scholarship award amounts for New Applicants for the 2019-20 school year are shown in the table below. The awards shown in the table are for full-time students enrolled in both the fall and spring semesters.

NOTE: DSF Scholarship award amounts may change in future years.

Yearly DSF Scholarship awards for DACA Scholars based on full-time enrollment*	
College Type	2019 Cohort
4-year College/University	\$2,800
Community College	\$1,400
Technical College	\$1,700

Award amounts for Scholars with DACA in other cohorts can be found here:
<https://denverscholarship.org/students/dsf-scholarship/scholarship-payment/>

6. What are the requirements to stay eligible for the DSF Scholarship?

To maintain eligibility for the DSF Scholarship while you are in college, you must:

- Enroll full-time (12 credit hours or more each term) at a DSF eligible partner college; and
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress each term, as defined by the college you attend; and
- Meet the DSF Student Success Requirements (SSR) for your college. Visit www.denverscholarship.org/colleges for a complete list of all Student Success Requirements and deadlines for each college; and
- Qualify and receive a DSF scholarship award (become a DSF Scholar) by December 31 of the year after your high school graduation in order to remain eligible to reapply; and
- Complete the DSF Scholarship Renewal Application by April 1 each year; and
- If needed, update your College Choice Form by July 15; and
- Complete all financial aid requirements at your college by July 15; and
- Continue to be lawfully present in the United States and provide proof of lawful presence each year by July 15.

Your eligibility is also based on the type of college you are attending. Visit www.denverscholarship.org/yearsofeligibility for more information. Please note that DSF allows mid-year transfers (changing colleges between fall and winter/spring terms) only in limited situations. For more information, please visit www.denverscholarship.org/transfer.

7. At which colleges may I use the DSF Scholarship?

The DSF Scholarship may be used to attend any DSF College Partner (listed at www.denverscholarship.org/colleges) in Colorado, based on your final high school GPA.

DSF will look at your weighted or unweighted final cumulative high school GPA (whichever is higher) to determine your eligible college type.

- *2.75 or higher GPA*: eligible for scholarship in any degree type (certificate, associate, or bachelor degrees) at any DSF partner college.
- *2.5 – 2.749 GPA*: eligible for scholarship only at a DSF partner technical or community college.
- *2.0 – 2.49 GPA*: eligible for scholarship only at a DSF partner technical college.

Visit www.denverscholarship.org/hsgpa for more information or talk to your DSF Future Center advisor or high school counselor about your college selection.

8. Can I renew my DSF Scholarship?

Once you become a DSF Finalist, you are eligible for scholarship consideration for up to four (4) consecutive years, as long as you continue to be eligible to receive federal student financial aid or continue to be lawfully present in the United States, and you meet the DSF Scholarship Renewal Application requirements.

Within your four-year period of DSF Scholarship eligibility, there are limits on how long you can renew the DSF Scholarship at certain types of colleges.

- **College/University**: Students enrolled in a four-year public or private college or university are eligible for scholarship consideration during all (4) years of the eligibility period.
- **Community College**: Students enrolled in community college or junior college are eligible for scholarship consideration during the first (2) years of the eligibility period.
- **Technical College**: Students enrolled in technical college are eligible for scholarship consideration during the (1) year of the eligibility period.

To be eligible for scholarship consideration in future years, DSF Finalists must become a DSF Scholar (receive an initial DSF scholarship award) by December 31 of the year after their high school graduation. For example, if you graduate from high school in May 2019, you must receive your initial DSF scholarship award by December 31, 2020, to be eligible for DSF in the future.

Other Questions and Resources

9. What is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?

Deferred action is a deferral of removal (deportation) for individuals who meet certain guidelines. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a program through which individuals who came to the United States before the age of sixteen, have resided continuously in the United States for at least five years, and meet other requirements were eligible to apply for deferred action. DACA is a matter of prosecutorial discretion, not a change in federal law. As a result, the policy can be changed by the current U.S. President at any time, without action by Congress. On September 4, 2017, U.S. Attorney General announced that the Trump Administration would rescind (end) the DACA program effective March 5, 2017. That decision has been challenged in court and is currently being reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

For more information about the Trump Administration's September 5, 2017, announcement of the end of the DACA program, pending legal action, and Congressional efforts to pass legislation, visit the top of this document or go to www.nilc.org or [click here](#).

10. If I get the DSF Scholarship, will it help me qualify for other financial aid?

Eligibility for the DSF Scholarship does not affect your eligibility for other financial aid.

Students whose cases have been deferred under DACA are not eligible for federal or state financial aid, but may be eligible for institutional (college-provided) aid. Students attending public colleges or universities in Colorado may be eligible for in-state tuition through the ASSET program. Visit <http://www.ciccoloradoasset.org/> or talk to your college's Office of Financial Aid to learn more about the requirements and application process for ASSET. Please check with your college's Office of Financial Aid to learn more about the types of institutional aid or scholarships available for ASSET/DACA/Dreamer students, the application process for that aid, and any impact of the end of the DACA program on available aid.

11. If I apply for the DSF Scholarship, how will the information I provide be shared and protected?

To determine your eligibility for the DSF Scholarship, the information you provide to DSF may be shared with Denver Public Schools and your selected college. For more information about how student information may be used and how DSF protects student information, please review the *Affirmation of Lawful Presence in the United States* and the *DPS Information Release Form* contained within the DSF Scholarship Application, portal.denverscholarship.org.

DSF does not share confidential information with any other parties, except with DSF's partners when authorized by you, or as required by law.

12. What resources are available to help me with the DACA process?

Visit <https://denverscholarship.org/daca> and click on the link for “Resources for DACA Information & Renewal” to find current information about:

- Understanding the 9/5/17 announcement about the end of the DACA program
- Updates on any legislative action to provide a permanent solution for Dreamers
- Legal help
- Financial help for DACA renewal applications
- Scholarship opportunities

If you have suggestions for additional resources to add, please send them to www.denverscholarship.org/contactus or call 303-640-6564.

13. If the BRIDGE Act, DREAM Act, or other federal immigration reform passes, or other changes are made to U.S. immigration law, how will that impact my eligibility for the DSF Scholarship?

In light of the Trump Administration’s announcement of the end of the DACA program, legislative efforts are underway in Congress to pass a bill to address the status of Dreamers. If changes are made to federal immigration law or policy that may impact DSF scholarship policies, DSF will review its policies and will determine what changes, if any, are necessary. Impacted students will be notified of any changes to DSF policy as quickly as possible.