

DACA GUIDE

What To Do After Submitting DACA Renewal

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www.juntoscommunity.org

Processing times for DACA

Previously, on April 27, 2026 USCIS stated that their current goal was to process DACA renewal requests within 120 days," and 80% of cases are completed within 4 months.

However, this information is no longer available on the [official USCIS website](#) and may no longer be accurate. *(The link may or may not share up to date information).*

Based on renewal delays nation wide, Juntos Community's recommendation is to renew 5 to 6 months before your expiration date.

The processing "clock" starts from when USCIS says they received your application, not necessarily when you submit it. You can find that date on your USCIS receipt notice.

How to understand your USCIS receipt notice

- ① Form Type or Case Type
- ② Receipt Number
- ③ Received Date
- ④ USCIS Office

Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services		Form I-797C, Notice of Action	
THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.			
NOTICE TYPE Receipt		NOTICE DATE June 1, 2017	
CASE TYPE I-130 Petition for Alien Relative		ARREST NUMBER	
①	②	③	④
WAC1701234567	May 08, 2017	FROM 1 of 1	TO March 21, 1965
RECEIVED DATE May 08, 2017		PREFERENCE CLASSIFICATION 201 AT INA ADULT CHILD OF USC	
JOHN D. SMITH 123 MAIN STREET, APT. 7			
④ USCIS Office Address: USCIS California Service Center P.O. Box 30111 Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0111		USCIS Customer Service Number: (800) 375-5283 APPLICANT COPY 	

How to check the status of your case

OPTION 01

If you submitted via your USCIS online account, check your account for any updates.

OPTION 02

Check your case status via [USCIS website](#). You will find your receipt number on your USCIS receipt notice.

OPTION 03

USCIS Case Inquiry: If your case has been pending longer than 105 days your USCIS received date, you can submit a case inquiry about your case in two ways:

- **Option A:** Call USCIS at 1-800-375-5283
- **Option B:** Submit a “Case outside normal processing time” service request inquiry online using <https://www.uscis.gov/e-request>. Form I-821D is not listed in the menu options, so use your Form I-765 receipt number to submit the request.



Support from Members of Congress

*See the next page for more details**

Congressional Inquiry on a USCIS Case:

Contact the office of your U.S. Representative or one of your U.S. Senators to ask them to submit a congressional inquiry. ***See more details on next page 5.****

USCIS Expedite Request:

Contact the office of your U.S. Representative or one of your U.S. Senators to ask them to submit an expedite request. ***See more details on page 7 - 11****

Unemployment Compensation in CO for DACA recipients



If your EAD expires and your employment is terminated as a result, apply to the [Benefit Recovery Fund](#). ***See more details on page 12 - 19****

If you remain unemployed after receiving your new EAD, apply to [Unemployment Insurance](#) through CDLE. ***See more details on page 20****

Congressional Inquiry on a USCIS Case

Anyone who believes their renewal application may be facing a delay or has other unusual circumstances may contact the office of the U.S. Representative or one of their U.S. Senators for support.

What Can My Member of Congress do for Me?

A congressional office can contact USCIS directly to inquire about the status of your case. This inquiry may not yield any more information than what you can obtain yourself from a USCIS Case Inquiry by calling 1-800-375-5283. However, if your case is facing unusual circumstances and contacting USCIS directly does not yield any answers, a congressional inquiry can give your inquiry additional credibility and urgency.

What criteria qualify one to request a congressional inquiry on a USCIS case?

There are not specific criteria that have to be met to contact the office of a Member of Congress for support. However, if you are not facing unusual circumstances or a processing delay beyond usual processing times (~120 days for DACA renewal applications), the congressional inquiry may not yield additional information.

When to request a congressional inquiry on a USCIS case?

USCIS takes time to provide a response to a case inquiry. As soon as you think that your case is facing an unusual circumstance or processing delay, contact a congressional office.

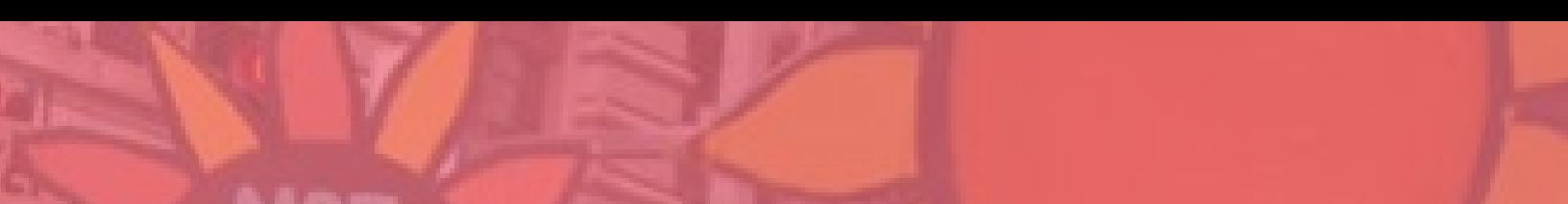
How to request a congressional inquiry on a USCIS case?

USCIS takes time to provide a response to a case inquiry. As soon as you think that your case is facing an unusual circumstance or processing delay, contact a congressional office.

- 01** Locate your Members of Congress
- 02** Contact the office of your U.S. Representative or one of your U.S. Senators.
- 03** Complete the Privacy Release Form for that congressional office, describing to them the problem you are facing and how the congressional office can take action to support you.

Other Details

Work with one congressional office for your congressional inquiry on a USCIS case. Do not ask multiple members of congress to inquire about your case.



USCIS Expedite Request

What criteria qualify one to apply for a USCIS expedite request?

- Severe Financial Loss to a company or person
- Emergencies and urgent humanitarian reasons
- US government interests (including urgent cases for federal agencies such as DOD, Department of Labor, or other public safety or national security interests.)
- Non-profit organization (designated by IRS) whose request is in the furtherance of the cultural and social interests of the US
- Clear USCIS error

**Learn more about the criteria for an expedite request [here](#)*

When to submit an expedite request?

USCIS typically requires a minimum of 35-45 business days to provide a response to an expedite request. It is ideal to submit an expedite request as soon as possible once you have met the criteria below:

USCIS Expedite Request

...When to submit an expedite request?

1. *Received an application receipt notice*
2. *Completed any pending items for your case (e.g. submitting biometrics or a request for evidence). You can check your case status here for anything pending.*
3. *You believe that your current DACA protections and EAD may expire before your renewal is processed based on current case processing times.*

How to submit an expedite request?

4. Locate your Members of Congress
5. *Contact the office of your U.S. Representative or one of your U.S. Senators*
6. *Complete the Privacy Release Form for that congressional office*
7. *Submit to your congressional office a statement that you meet one of the criteria to qualify for an expedite request.*

USCIS Expedite Request

How to submit an expedite request?

8. Submit any additional proof to back up your statement (e.g. a letter from an employer that describes their dependence on your labor, hospital bills showing a family members' reliance on your income, financial documents showing your family's dependence on your income, etc)

Other Details

- Whether your case gets approved or denied is up to the discretion of the USCIS officer reviewing your request.
- The burden to prove that you qualify for expedite criteria is on you. A written statement without direct evidence to the situation is not sufficient. Submitting clear evidence to back up your statement will strengthen your request.
- Work with one congressional office for your expedite request. Do not ask multiple members of congress to submit your request.

Sample USCIS Expedite Request Letter

Subject: Request for USCIS Expedite | USCIS A Number XXXXXX

I-821D Receipt Number XXXXXX

I-765 Receipt Number XXXXXX

Beneficiary's Full Name: _____

Beneficiary's Date of Birth XX/XX/XXXX

Beneficiary's Telephone Number XXX-XXX-XXXX

Petitioner's Name: Note: DACA recipients are both the beneficiary & petitioner

Petitioner's Date of Birth: XX/XX/XXXX

Petitioner's Telephone Number: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is _____ and I am requesting the processing of my I-821D and I-765:

- I-821D receipt number XXXXXX
- I-765 receipt number XXXXXX

My child is currently facing an emergency medical condition and is dependent on my ability to care for her and to pay for her/his medical care.

[Mention the current status of your case, include any costs you have paid, paperwork that has been submitted, etc. If you claim a major medical or health issue, submit medical documentation to prove this.]

Additionally, include as many facts as possible to substantiate your suffering (financial, medical, humanitarian etc) and the reason for your request to expedite.]

[State the timeline of events about the I-821D & I-765 application]

Please contact me at *[insert phone number and email address for yourself and your congressional case worker]* if you have any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,

[Your name/Petitioner's name]

Phone: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Email: _____

Sample USCIS Expedite Request Evidence Letter from an Employer

[Company Letterhead]

Date: [Date]

Subject: Request for USCIS Expedite for [Employee Name]

- Form Type: I-765
- Receipt Number: XXXXXX
- Petitioner: [Company Name]
- Beneficiary: [Employee Name]

Dear USCIS Officer,

I am writing to formally request expedited processing of the I-765 Employment Authorization filed on behalf of [Employee Name] (Receipt Number: XXXXXX).

Reason for Request: Severe Financial Loss to the Company

[Company Name] is facing severe financial loss, specifically *[choose one or more: a loss of \$X in revenue / potential loss of a client/contract / inability to complete a crucial project / need to lay off Y employees]* due to the delay in this application.

[Employee Name] is essential to our operations as a [Job Title]. Their absence due to the pending EAD application prevents us from *[specific impact, e.g., fulfilling a contract with CLIENT NAME due by DATE]*. Specifically, *[detailed explanation of the urgent project or business disruption]*.

Supporting Evidence:

Attached to this letter, please find evidence of this urgent situation, including:

- [e.g., Exhibit A: Copy of the contract or project timeline]
- [e.g., Exhibit B: Letter from client highlighting urgency]
- [e.g., Exhibit C: Financial analysis of potential losses]

We respectfully request that you expedite this application to prevent further, irreversible financial harm to our company.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Title, e.g., HR Manager/Director]

[Company Name]

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

Unemployment Compensation for DACA recipients in Colorado

The Benefit Recovery Fund is a statewide program in Colorado for workers without work authorization who receive a W-2 and have taxes withheld from their paychecks, but lack work authorization. The Fund provides unemployment insurance benefits to these workers when they lose their job through no fault of their own.

For the most up to date information on the Benefit Recovery Fund visit www.brffaq.com

Program Eligibility

- ✓ **Are not work-authorized** at the time of application (may never have had work authorization or it is invalid/revoked).
- ✓ **Earned W-2 wages within the last 15 months.**
- ✓ **Separated from their job through no fault of their own:** If someone is unsure whether their situation qualifies, they should apply. The review team will assess their eligibility during the application process.

Douments needed to Apply

Employer Separation Form (Form 22-234 if available) If the applicant cannot obtain this form, they can still submit their application. However, they should make an effort to request it by emailing, texting, or visiting their former employer in person.	Valid ID (passport, driver's license, consular ID, or SB-251 ID) 
	Recent W-2 or Pay stub 
	Proof of address (ID, W-2, pay stub, lease, or utility bill) 

Referring Applicants

Initial Contact: Applicants can text or leave a voicemail at **720-902-7643** to receive the application link and ask any questions about the process.

Requesting 1:1 Support: Applicants who need assistance can request 1-on-1 help by:

- 01 Clicking on the application link and entering their email and phone number
- 02 Answering a few brief eligibility questions and our team members will follow up with them within 1–3 business days.

Benefit Recovery Fund

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Weekly Recertification

If approved, applicants will receive a text and email each week with instructions to complete a recertification confirming they are still unemployed.

Reapplication

Applicants may reapply one year after their first approved payment if they gained additional W-2 employment and were laid off again.

Application Follow-Up

If applicants are unsure whether they submitted their application correctly or need assistance at any point, text or call 720-902-7643.

Application Link:
<https://brf.aidkit.org>



Benefit Recovery Fund (BRF)

WHAT TO KNOW

About

The Benefit Recovery Fund is a statewide program in Colorado for workers without work authorization who receive a W-2 and have taxes withheld from their paychecks, but lack work authorization. The Fund provides unemployment insurance benefits to these workers when they lose their job through no fault of their own.

The State of Colorado selected AidKit as the administrator of the fund to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of applicants. The government will not be involved in processing your application or deciding who gets benefits. Your former employer will not know you have applied to the Benefit Recovery Fund. AidKit uses data that employers provide to the State on all employees, but only AidKit reviews that data. **No information will be shared with any government immigration agencies.**

Who is Eligible?

- 16 or older
- W-2 or pay stub worker without work authorization
- Have earned income within the last 15-18 months
- Not currently receiving or eligible for traditional Unemployment Insurance Benefits
- Separated from employment through no fault of own
- Have a valid government-issued ID and a Colorado address.

Ways to Apply

- Online Platform: www.brf.aidkit.org/apply
- Phone Assistance: **(720) 902-7643**
Mon-Fri 8am-7pm MT / Weekends 10am-5pm MT

Receiving Funds

If approved, applicants can receive the benefit through:

- Direct Deposit
- Mailed Debit Card



The Application Journey

Start Application



Gather Documents: ID, residency, employer separation form (22-234) and other essentials.

Application Submission



Complete the application and upload documents. Typically takes 30 minutes or more.

Verification Checks



AidKit will confirm your identity. It's important to make sure this funding is going to real people who need it.

Application Review



AidKit will review all documents and reach out if additional documentation is needed.

Notification of Eligibility Status



Applicants will receive a response within 2 weeks unless more information is needed.

AidKit

Learn more at
ona.colorado.gov/our-work/benefit-recovery-fund
720-902-7643





Benefit Recovery Fund (BRF)

QUÉ HAY QUE SABER

Acerca del programa

El Fondo de Recuperación de Beneficios es un programa estatal en Colorado para trabajadores sin autorización de trabajo que reciben un formulario W-2 y tienen impuestos retenidos de sus cheques de pago. Proporciona beneficios de desempleo si pierden su trabajo sin que sea por su propia culpa.

El Estado de Colorado seleccionó a AidKit como administrador del fondo para garantizar la privacidad y confidencialidad de los solicitantes

- El gobierno no participa en el procesamiento de las solicitudes ni en la decisión de quién recibe los beneficios, y su empleador anterior no sabrá que usted solicitó.
- AidKit utiliza datos reportados por los empleadores al Estado, pero solo AidKit revisa esa información. **No se comparte información con agencias de inmigración.**

¿Quién es elegible?

- 16 años o más
- Trabajador con W-2 o comprobantes de pago sin autorización de trabajo
- Haber tenido ingresos en los últimos 15–18 meses
- No estar recibiendo ni ser elegible para el seguro de desempleo tradicional
- Haber perdido el empleo sin que sea por su propia culpa
- Tener una identificación emitida por el gobierno y una dirección en Colorado

Formas de solicitar

- En línea: www.brf.aidkit.org/apply
- Asistencia por teléfono: **(720) 902-7643**
- Lunes a viernes: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. (hora de la montaña) / Fines de semana: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (hora de la montaña)

Entrega de Fondos

Si es aprobado, puede recibir el beneficio mediante:

- Depósito directo
- Tarjeta de débito enviada por correo



El proceso de solicitud

Empezar la solicitud



Reúna los documentos: identificación, comprobante de residencia, formulario de separación del empleador (22-234) y otros documentos necesarios.

Presentación de la solicitud



Complete la solicitud y cargue los documentos. Por lo general, toma 30 minutos o más.

Verificaciones



AidKit verificará su identidad para garantizar que los fondos lleguen a quienes los necesitan.

Revisión de solicitudes



AidKit revisará todos los documentos y se comunicará con usted si se necesita información adicional.

Notificación de elegibilidad



Los solicitantes recibirán una respuesta dentro de 2 semanas, a menos que se necesite más información.

AidKit

Más información en
ona.colorado.gov/our-work/benefit-recovery-fund
720-902-7643



FAQs about Benefit Recovery Fund

For the most up to date information on the Benefit Recovery Fund visit www.brffaq.com

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| <p>1 Would receiving pay from the BRF make me a public charge?</p> | <p>No. This is not considered a "public charge" because this is a state program, not a federal program this is an earned benefit that workers gain access to because their employers have paid into it; it is not considered public assistance.</p> |
| <p>2 My DACA work permit is about to expire. How soon can I apply to BRF?</p> | <p>You can apply only once your employment has been terminated as you must be fully separated from employment to be eligible.</p> |
| <p>3 If I am on unpaid administrative leave due to my EAD (work permit) being expired, can I apply to BRF?</p> | <p>No. You must be fully separated from your former employment to be eligible for BRF. If you are on unpaid leave and your employer has stated that your job will be available when you return, you are not considered unemployed. This is because you still have an ongoing employment relationship and are expected to return to work once your situation changes.</p> |
| <p>4 My separation form says my employment was terminated but that I am eligible for rehire when my work permit is reinstated. Am I still eligible to apply to BRF?</p> | <p>Yes. You are eligible to apply as long as you are unemployed and do not have valid work authorization</p> |
| <p>5 If my DACA work permit is currently valid and my employment was terminated for no fault of mine, can I apply to BRF?</p> | <p>No, you cannot apply to BRF if your work permit is currently valid, but you may apply to the traditional unemployment insurance program administered by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.</p> |

FAQs about Benefit Recovery Fund

For the most up to date information on the Benefit Recovery Fund visit www.brffaq.com

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| 6 If I was receiving state unemployment insurance and this was disrupted due to my work authorization (EAD) expiring, can I apply to the BRF? | Yes, you can apply to BRF as long as your work authorization is not valid at the time of application. If you were receiving standard unemployment insurance, you may be able to qualify for BRF if you lose your work authorization. |
| <hr/> | |
| 7 If I have two jobs, and my employment was terminated by one, but not the other, am I eligible for BRF? | No, you must be completely unemployed to be eligible for BRF. If your full-time employment was terminated, but you still have part-time employment, you are not eligible for BRF. |
| <hr/> | |
| 8 If I have already been unemployed for a while, will BRF pay me retroactively? | No, BRF will not provide retroactive pay. It will start providing you with benefits once approved and will continue to provide you with benefits while you are unemployed for a maximum of 13 weeks. |
| <hr/> | |
| 9 How is the BRF benefit amount calculated? | BRF entitles you to 55% of your average weekly wage, which is calculated from your two consecutive highest earning quarters during the previous 15 months. As of May 2026, no benefit can exceed \$844 pursuant to Colorado state law (this is reevaluated every July on an annual basis). |
| <hr/> | |
| 10 When is the application deadline? | There is no deadline because this is an ongoing program. |
| <hr/> | |
| 11 How long does it take to get a response after you reply? | BRF tries to review the application within 8 working days of your submission and the total review time will depend on how complete the application is. |
| <hr/> | |

FAQs about Benefit Recovery Fund

**For the most up to date information on the Benefit Recovery Fund
visit www.brffaq.com**

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| 12 Will I need to provide additional information after submitting my application? | <p>Possibly. As part of the review process, the BRF may request additional documents or clarification to confirm your eligibility and make an accurate decision. This may include information or documentation related to your work authorization status, residency, income, or reason for separation. This could involve submitting additional documents. These requests are a standard part of the process and help ensure the application is reviewed fairly and accurately.</p> <p>Please know that all information you provide is kept confidential and used only to determine eligibility.</p> |
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|--|---|
| 13 I recently became work authorized and am currently receiving benefits, what should I do? | <p>If you have become work authorized because of this change, you may be eligible for state-administered wage replacement benefits, such as unemployment insurance, and are no longer eligible for the Benefit Recovery Fund (BRF).</p> <p>As a result, you must indicate this in your next recertification. If you are still unemployed, we encourage you to contact the Colorado Unemployment Insurance program for more information about applying for benefits.</p> |
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- | | |
|---|--|
| 14 Why is Colorado the only state with this kind of program? | <p>In 2022, Colorado passed SB22-234 & launched BRF in early 2024. This is a Colorado program through the Office of New Americans at the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. The program is managed and administered by AidKit. The program is funded by employers just as the traditional unemployment insurance program is.</p> |
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| 15 Do I have to repay these funds? | <p>No, you will not have to repay the benefits received. However, please note that these payments do not withhold taxes. You are responsible for paying any required tax when you file your tax return. AidKit will email you a 1099-G tax form by January 31. We suggest you consult with a tax professional for more information and to adequately prepare.</p> |
|---|---|
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Unemployment Insurance

Once you receive a new work permit (EAD), you are no longer eligible to receive benefits from the Benefit Recovery Fund. However, if you remain unemployed while having work authorization, you may be eligible for unemployment insurance through the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) helps people who have lost their jobs by providing temporary wage replacement through Unemployment Insurance benefits. Unemployment benefits are funded by employers and may be paid to any worker who has lost a job through no fault of their own and meets the eligibility requirements set forth by the law.

Learn more and apply [here](#).