

Colorado Association of Ski Towns

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# Immigration Reform and Colorado's Communities & Economy





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## Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. About Colorado Immigrants
- III. Successes & Opportunities for  
Reform at the State & Federal Level
- IV. Get Involved

## About FWD.us

**FWD.us is bipartisan political organization that believes America's families, communities, and economy thrive when more individuals are able to achieve their full potential.**

For too long, our broken immigration and criminal justice systems have locked too many people out of the American dream. Founded by leaders in the technology and business communities, we seek to grow and galvanize political support to break through partisan gridlock and achieve meaningful reforms. **Together, we can move America forward.**



# Colorado Immigrants in Numbers



## About Colorado Immigrants

The impact of congressional inaction to enact meaningful immigration reform coupled with ongoing litigation battles, **threatens Colorado's communities, economies, and Colorado immigrants themselves.**



# About Colorado Immigrants

Immigrant Residents

**537,334**

Immigrant Share of Population

**9.3%**

Annual Immigrant Taxes Paid

**\$5.8B**

Immigrant Entrepreneurs

**43,684**

Immigrant Spending Power

**\$15.6B**

Share of Foreign-Born Workers  
in Traveler Accommodation

**21.2%**

# Current DACA recipients

# 14,000

Colorado



AVERAGE AGE:

**28 years**

AVERAGE YEARS IN U.S.:

**22 years**

% IN LABOR FORCE:

**61%**

% WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA:

**92%**

% WITH SOME COLLEGE EDUCATION:

**40%**

% MARRIED:

**32%**

% WITH CHILDREN:

**26%**

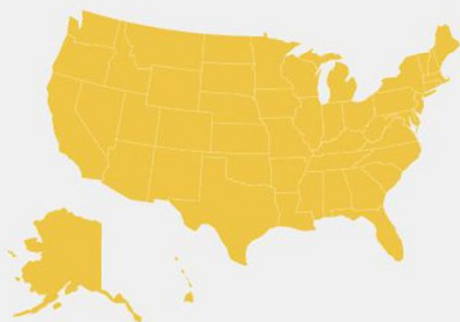
U.S. CITIZENS LIVING WITH DACA RECIPIENTS:

**20,000**

## Ten years later, DACA's beneficiaries have built families and careers in the U.S.

*Initial DACA recipients in 2012 with active DACA status in 2022, by year*

United States



	2012	2022
in school	45%	15%
in labor force	60%	85%
median income	\$4,000	\$26,000
finished high school	77%	99%
some college education	35%	47%
married	17%	37%
has children	22%	42%



*This school year in **Colorado**, an estimated:*

**8,000**

undocumented students will  
study in K-12 schools

**7%**

of all K-12 students have  
undocumented parents

***Congress must act to ensure  
undocumented students can stay with  
their families and earn an education.***

A local perspective

# Colorado Immigrants in Ski Towns



# Colorado Immigrants in Ski Communities



# Colorado Immigrants in Ski Communities



- Shift in work culture
- Collaboration
- COVID Outreach
- Left Behind Worker Fund
- Equity Committee

State of Play

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# **Successes & Opportunities for Reform at the State & Federal Level**

# Colorado State Successes

- + **Improved access to SB 251 Driver's License Program**
- + **Enhanced protection of Coloradans' personal data**
- + **Expanded access to professional licensing and in-state tuition for all Coloradans**

# Federal State of Play & Opportunities

- + **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program Litigation Overview**
- + **Need for a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers**
- + **Need for broader immigration reform to support Colorado communities, economy, and workforce**

# Immigrants Strengthen Our Communities

## **Immigration relief could help fill critical labor shortages.**

FWD.us estimates that more than **3.4 million immigrants** currently work in industries experiencing some of the highest labor shortages, including accommodation and food services and arts, entertainment, and recreation.

## **Increasing Future Immigration Grows the U.S.' Competitive Advantage**

Without boosting legal immigration significantly now, the U.S. will sacrifice its position as the world's largest economy by 2030 and leave the reserves of vital programs—like Social Security—depleted by 2034.

# What if DACA Ends

**Each and every business day for 2 years, 1,000 more U.S. jobs will be lost.**

Because DACA renewals are granted on a rolling basis, local communities would almost immediately feel the impact if renewals were blocked. **In Colorado the monthly job losses would amount to 500 a month**—at a time when workforce shortages are already hurting families and driving up costs in our communities.

# The Impact of Inaction in Ski Communities

# Ways You Can Support Colorado Immigrants

- **Change the narrative** in your community: share your voice and speak to why immigrants are critical to your community and local economy
- Tell Congress **immigration reform is a priority** for your community: contact your representatives in Denver and D.C.
- **Increase support** in your community for immigration reform: Host an event or participate in a roundtable

# Elected Officials Support Colorado Immigrants



For a decade now, we've defended DACA despite continuous efforts to displace [#Dreamers](#). As we recognize the significance of this milestone, we also acknowledge the uncertainty and stress placed on individuals – like Jesus & Javier – and their families!

Rep. Joe Neguse @RepJoeNeguse · Jun 15

Today, on the 10th Anniversary of #DACA, join me and the @HispanicCaucus in recognizing the vital contributions that #Dreamers and their families have made to our communities in Colorado and across the country. 🇺🇸

[Show this thread](#)

DACA  
10 years

## On Tenth Anniversary of DACA Program, Bennet Calls on Congress to Provide A Path to Citizenship for Dreamers

June 15, 2022

Washington, D.C. — Today, Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet released the following statement on the 10th anniversary of President Barack Obama's announcement of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program:

"Dreamers have been active members of our communities for their entire lives — attending school, playing sports, paying taxes, and working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. They came to this country as kids, and know no other home than the United States. But in the decade since the creation of DACA, our country's broken immigration system has left them in the lurch. As we recognize this tenth anniversary, we must work to pass comprehensive immigration reform and keep our promise to Dreamers by offering them a pathway to citizenship."



## GOV. POLIS: 10 years later, DACA is making Colorado, nation, better place for everyone

By **GOV. JARED POLIS**, *Sentinel Guest Columnist* - June 27, 2022

2216

Like 1K

DACA — now celebrating ten years — has changed the lives of thousands of young immigrants, including a member of our outreach staff in Colorado, Janeth.

Here's just a small piece of her story.



# Local Leaders Support Colorado Immigrants

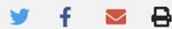
**VailDaily**

## Romer: Time to finally protect dreamers

Opinion [FOLLOW OPINION](#) | June 16, 2022



**Chris Romer** [FOLLOW](#)  
cromer@visitvailvalley.com



June 15 marks 10 years since the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy went into effect, changing the lives of [over 800,000 young immigrants](#) who came to our country as children with their families. These young Americans have repeatedly shown us the incredible value they add to our country when given the opportunity to work legally and live without the constant fear of deportation.

Since its creation in 2012, DACA has been an enormous success and has given hundreds of thousands of immigrants protected status from deportation and work authorization, which has allowed them to advance in their careers, grow their families and build prosperous lives here. Even as these immigrants have grown up, they continue every day to follow their American dreams while making our nation the successful and vibrant place that it is today.

OPINION COLUMNS

## Opinion: DACA is good for business, good for our community and good for our country



**Dick Carleton** 2:49 AM MDT on Oct 18, 2020

**T**his summer's decision by the Supreme Court to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and reject the Trump Administration's 2017 attempt to rescind the program was a victory for Americans across the country.



# Ways You Can Support Colorado Immigrants

- Celebrating Immigrants and their contributions
  - Immigrant Heritage Month and other key dates
- Inclusion and integration of immigrant voices and leaders
  - Language access
  - Outreach plans focused on reaching immigrant community
  - Invite and seek feedback from immigrant leaders and community members

# Ways You Can Support Colorado Immigrants

- Remove barriers to participation in community services and programs
  - Legal presence requirements
  - Make outdoor recreation more accessible

**Your voice makes a difference.**

**Thank you!**

