



FACT SHEET: Pres. Biden Executive Action expanding Parole & DACA Work Visas

June 18th, 2024

On June 18th, 2024, President Biden issued an executive action to give relief to people who have been here many years to keep American families together through Parole in Place and expand opportunities for DACA recipients.

What it does:

- President Biden's new actions instruct the Department of Homeland Security to allow certain undocumented spouses of US citizens to apply for a protection called parole. Parole is a long-standing legal authority that allows noncitizens to be protected from deportation and be eligible for work authorization.
- To qualify for this relief, a noncitizen must have continuously resided in the US for at least 10 years and be married to a US Citizen.
- Those granted parole under this program would be able to remain in the US with their families and gain work authorization for up to 3 years. They would also be able to apply for permanent residency.
- Additionally, President Biden also announced a new streamlined waiver process for DACA recipients to gain access to employment-based visas.

What are its effects:

- These much-needed action would offer relief to over 500,000 undocumented spouses and protect over 50,000 children. In total, this new policy would keep almost 2 million family members together.
- Typically, marrying a US citizen does provide a pathway for permanent residency, but under prior undocumented spouses had to first leave the US – and be separated from their families – and not return for 3 to 10 years while their green card application is being processed. This new program allows families to remain together in a country they all call home while pursuing permanent residency.
- Creating a streamlined waiver process for DACA recipients to find relief with an employment-based visa gives long-needed certainty to many DACA recipients and could potentially create a pathway to permanent residency for those who qualify.

These executive actions provide much needed relief for many of our communities. In Washington state, these policies can help over 12,000 undocumented individuals and keep over 40,000 family members together. While these actions are steps in the right direction, more still needs to be done. For immigrant communities to thrive, they all must live without fear of family separation or deportation. They all must be able to work freely and continue contributing to our economy. And they all must have the opportunity to access legal pathways for permanent status.