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Contact: Gladys Malibiran
(213) 821 -5258 malibira@usc.edu



“The Kids Aren’t Alright—But They Could Be”

New data sheds light on the often overlooked economic and social gains from DAPA on millions of U.S. citizen children

In California, DAPA implementation could bring a \$1.6 billion economic boost and lift 40,000 children out of poverty

Los Angeles, CA – With DAPA (*Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents*) implementation temporarily delayed, new research released today by the USC Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration takes a closer look at the significant economic and social impacts of DAPA on an estimated 5.5 million U.S. citizen children.

Often overlooked in the debate is the tremendous opportunity DAPA offers to improve family stability and child wellness. The research brief, [*The Kids Aren’t Alright—But They Could Be: The Impact of DAPA on Children*](#), presents national level data with a special focus on California, where 30% of the country’s DAPA-impacted children reside. CSII researchers estimate that full implementation of DAPA has the potential to boost family earnings in California by nearly \$1.6 billion and bring nearly 40,000 children out of poverty.

“The economic and social consequences are real. We know that a parent’s socioeconomic status has one of the single largest impacts on student learning and future performance,” said Dr. Manuel Pastor, co-author of the brief and co-director for the USC Center of the Study of Immigrant Integration. “So in that sense, DAPA can be viewed as an anti-poverty and pro-child measure—which should be a rallying point for politicians across the spectrum.”

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

In the U.S.

- There are approximately **3.7 million parents** eligible for DAPA.
- There are **6.3 million children** of DAPA-eligible parents, and **86% (5.5 million)** of those children are U.S. citizens.

In California

- **1.1 million parents** qualify for DAPA, and nearly **93%—1.6 million**—of their minor children are U.S. citizens. (*See chart below for detailed state rankings for numbers of DAPA minor children*)
- The total earnings of California’s DAPA recipients could increase by an estimated **\$1.6 billion**.

State	# of DAPA Minor Children	% of All Minor Children in State	Share of Those That are Citizens
California	1,590,551	17%	93%
Texas	996,474	14%	92%
Illinois	279,579	9%	93%
New York	230,760	5%	93%
Florida	203,353	5%	91%
Arizona	186,199	11%	93%
Georgia	167,356	7%	91%
North Carolina	162,475	7%	91%
Washington	125,864	8%	90%
New Jersey	124,343	6%	90%
Colorado	99,754	8%	90%
Nevada	96,728	15%	91%
Oregon	75,494	9%	91%
Virginia	74,435	4%	93%
Maryland	66,935	5%	92%

Source: CSII estimates of the pooled 2011-2013 American Community Survey

“These findings underscore the transformative impact DAPA and the DACA expansion will have on eligible immigrants, their families and communities, and the nation as a whole. This report should serve as a call to action for state and local governments: we must embrace these programs and do everything in our power to inform and support eligible community members, so that we can all reap the benefits when the unjust injunction is lifted,” said Reshma Shamasunder, Executive Director of the California Immigrant Policy Center. “And with [7 in 10](#) Californians standing behind deportation relief, we will keep working to expand protections to all immigrant community members. “

Another key research finding points to the electoral impacts for those who support or oppose DAPA and related efforts: because parents can be eligible for DAPA due to their citizen children regardless of age, an estimated 600,000 children with a DAPA-eligible parent can already vote. And by the year 2020, younger citizen children will join them by aging into the electorate and altogether wield **1.7 million votes** nationwide.

Dr. Pastor said, “DAPA offers an opportunity to improve the lives of many U.S. citizen children and those who seek to derail the effort may face far more potential voters than they currently envision. Immigration reform may not be immediate but it is inevitable. Successfully implementing DAPA and the expansion of DACA in the meantime is a down payment on the gains that a more comprehensive immigration reform will bring.”

Download the brief on the CSII website: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/CSII/DAPA-impacts-children>

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About CSII: The mission of the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) at USC is to remake the narrative for understanding, and to shape the dialogue, on immigrant integration in America. CSII brings together three emphases: scholarship that draws on academic theory and rigorous research, data that provides information structured to highlight the process of immigrant integration over time, and engagement that seeks to create new dialogues with government, community organizers, business and civic leaders, immigrants and the voting public. Visit CSII’s website: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/CSII>.