NEW CHANGES TO DACA PROGRAM

In June 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling that allowed the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to continue. However, on July 28, 2020 the Trump administration issued a memo describing new restrictions limiting the DACA program in several ways.

Below are the top 5 facts you need to know about the new changes and the current status of DACA.

1. **All first-time DACA applications will be rejected.**
   US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) will reject all new first-time DACA applications, including first-time applications filed before the issuance of this memo (these applications will be returned along with filing fees). No individuals will be approved for DACA for the first time.

2. **Current DACA recipients remain with the same status and protections.**
   Current DACA recipients remain in the same status and will keep their work authorizations and protections until their status is scheduled to expire.

3. **All DACA renewals will be granted for only 1 year.**
   All DACA renewals, including those currently pending, will only be granted and valid for 1 year instead of the previous two-year period. This means that DACA recipients will need to renew their status every year, doubling the expense of applying.

4. **Almost all advanced parole requests will be rejected.**
   Advanced parole requests, including those pending, will be rejected unless there is an “exceptional circumstance”.

5. **Seek legal advice and stay updated.**
   If you have questions about how this memo may affect you or someone you know, please consult an attorney or an accredited representative. Individuals should not take so-called “legal advice” from a Notary or anyone other than an attorney or accredited representative.

These RI organizations offer legal consults and DACA renewal services:
- Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island (401-784-8600)
- Progreso Latino (401-728-5920)
- Diocese of Providence (401-421-7833).

There will be legal challenges to the restrictions in this memo. Stay tuned for updates by following these organizations:
- Immigrants Rising
- Informed Immigrant
- United We Dream
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- National Immigration Law Center.