



# Overview of the MN Dream Act MnACC

**Ginny Dodds**  
**Manager, State Financial Aid**

---

Is DACA the  
same as the MN  
Dream Act?



# Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

- U.S. immigration policy memorandum
- Defer action against undocumented individuals meeting certain criteria
- Applicants pay \$465 to apply
- Originally created on June 15, 2012
  - Recently expanded 11/20/14 by executive order
  - Cannot apply for expanded definition due to pending legal challenges
- Consult with immigration attorney before applying for DACA

# DACA original

- ~~o Under age 31 as of June 15, 2012~~
- o Arrived in U.S. before 16<sup>th</sup> birthday
- o Entered U.S. or fell out of lawful status before ~~06/15/2012~~ 11/20/2014
- o Have continuously resided in the U.S. since ~~06/15/2007~~ 1/1/2010
- o Attending school at time of application (or have graduated, earned GED, honorable military discharge)
- o Not convicted of felony, significant misdemeanor or 3 or more misdemeanors
- o Granted for ~~two~~ three years

# Deferred action for Parents of US Citizens and Permanent Residents - DAPA

Parent of a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder), as of November 20, 2014;

Continuously resided in the U.S. since January 1, 2010;

Physically present in the U.S. on November 20, 2014 and at the time of request;

No lawful status as of November 20, 2014

# Benefits & Limitations

## DACA & DAPA

### Benefits

Protection from  
deportation for 3 year  
period

Work authorization

Social security number

Driver's license in some  
states

May request permission  
to travel abroad

### Limitations

Not a green card or visa

Not a path to citizenship

Discretionary case-by-  
case decision based on  
DHS enforcement priorities

# Prosperity Act (MN Dream Act)

- Amended to Omnibus Higher Education bill
- Signed into law on May 23, 2013
- Applies to any academic term starting on or after July 1, 2013 at a Minnesota college or university

# Prosperity Act (MN Dream Act)

**Eligible for:**

- **In-state tuition rates at MnSCU and University of MN campuses**
- **State financial aid programs**
- **Privately-funded scholarships administered by MnSCU or U of M campuses**



# Prosperity Act (MN Dream Act)

## Requirements:

- Attend a MN high school for at least 3 years; and
- Graduate from a MN high school or earn a GED in MN; and
- If male, complied with Selective Service registration requirements; and
- Apply for lawful immigration status once federal process exists (does not refer to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

# Prosperity Act (MN Dream Act)

## Selective Service Requirements

- Males 18 to 25 years old born 1960 or later are required to register
  - This includes undocumented individuals
- If student has social security number via Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status
  - Register for Selective Service online at: [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov)
    - Should receive confirmation in 1-2 weeks

# Prosperity Act (MN Dream Act)

- If student cannot register online:
  - download Selective Service registration card from [www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct)
  - Mail completed card to OHE along with other documentation needed for MN Dream Act
  - OHE will make copy and mail original to Selective Service System on student's behalf

# Prosperity Act (MN Dream Act)

## Documentation required to establish eligibility for MN Dream Act

- **High school transcripts** (don't have to be certified/sealed)
- **High school diploma or GED** (if high school graduation not documented on transcripts)
- **Proof of Selective Service registration (for males born after 1959)**
  - Completed SS registration card or
  - Proof of registration from Selective Service or
  - Confirmation from Selective Service that failure to register was not knowing or willful

## **In-State Tuition at MnSCU & U of M**

- **Students meeting MN Dream Act (or MN residency criteria after receiving DACA status) eligible for in-state tuition rates**
- **Several MnSCU campuses and U of M Crookston and Morris campuses no longer have non-resident tuition rates**
- **Students will only have to apply for in-state tuition under the MN Dream Act if the campus charges a non-resident tuition rate**

## 2016-17 Resident vs. Non-Resident Tuition\*

College	Resident	Non-Resident	Savings
U of M – TC	\$14,224	\$24,378	\$10,154
U of M – Duluth	\$13,114	\$17,460	\$ 4,346
U of M - Morris	\$12,846	\$16,984	\$ 4,138
Metro State Univ	\$ 7,566	\$14,394	\$ 6,828
MN State Univ, Mankato	\$ 7,858	\$18,476	\$10,618
Saint Cloud State Univ	\$ 7,910	\$14,763	\$ 7,918
Winona State Univ	\$ 9,076	\$14,744	\$ 6,853
Lake Superior College	\$ 4,946	\$ 9,320	\$ 4,374
MN West CC&TC	\$ 5,641	\$10,736	\$ 5,095
Pine Technical College	\$ 5,037	\$ 9,586	\$4,549

\*Undergraduate tuition for 30 semester credits

# Prosperity Act (MN Dream Act)

**What state financial aid programs are available?**

# MN State Grant Program

- Need-based grant based on student's federal EFC, price of college and enrollment level
- Gift aid; does NOT have to be repaid
- Must be used by MN resident at MN college
- Eligible until student has attended college for 4 full-time academic years (or equivalent)
- Cannot be in default on student loans or delinquent on child support
- Must be making satisfactory academic progress in college pursuing certificate, diploma or degree



# MN State Grant Program

## (2016-2017 Annual Awards for Student With \$0 EFC)

	U of M/Private		State University		2-Year Public	
Credits For Term	Annual Pell Grant Award	Annual State Grant	Annual Pell Grant Award	Annual State Grant	Annual State Grant	State Grant for Term
15	\$5,815	\$5,938	\$5,815	\$2,869	\$1,543	\$772
14	\$5,815	\$5,150	\$5,815	\$2,287	\$1,050	\$525
13	\$5,815	\$4,375	\$5,815	\$1,714	\$565	\$283
12	\$5,815	\$3,587	\$5,815	\$1,132	\$0	\$0
11	\$4,361	\$4,254	\$4,361	\$2,004	\$1,033	\$517
10	\$4,361	\$3,478	\$4,361	\$1,431	\$547	\$274
9	\$4,361	\$2,691	\$4,361	\$849	\$0	\$0
8	\$2,908	\$3,356	\$2,908	\$1,721	\$1,014	\$507
7	\$2,908	\$2,580	\$2,908	\$1,147	\$528	\$264
6	\$2,908	\$1,793	\$2,908	\$566	\$0	\$0
5	\$1,454	\$2,459	\$1,454	\$1,438	\$996	\$498
4	\$1,454	\$1,684	\$1,454	\$865	\$510	\$255
3	\$1,454	\$896	\$1,454	\$283	\$0	\$0

# Postsecondary Child Care Grant Program

- For low-income students with children in child care while they attend college
- Available to MN residents attending MN public colleges and private 4-year degree-granting colleges
- Gift aid; does NOT have to be repaid
- Eligible until student has attended college for 4 full-time academic years (or equivalent)
- Cannot be in default on student loans
- Must be making satisfactory academic progress in college

# Postsecondary Child Care Grant Program

- Maximum award per child for full-time student \$2,800
- Must fill out paper program application after completing online state financial aid application
  - Program application available at college financial aid office
- Will be awarded by financial aid office at college
  - Financial aid administrator can access student's application record on OHE system to get total income, household size, household members, EFC

# MN State Work Study Program

- Must have DACA status, work authorization and social security number
- Must also meet MN Dream Act requirements OR have DACA status **before** meeting state residency requirements
- Work study jobs available on or off campus
  - Most students work 10-15 hours per week
- Must be arranged by college financial aid office
- Contact college after submitting online state financial aid application and all supporting documentation
  - College can access OHE system to confirm DACA, MN resident status, EFC

# Tuition Reciprocity Program

- Available to MN residents attending public colleges and universities in:
  - North Dakota
  - South Dakota
  - Wisconsin
  - Manitoba
  - Iowa Lakes Community College
- Won't have to pay higher non-resident tuition rate
- MN residents generally pay the higher of the MN resident tuition rate or the resident tuition charged by the college attended

# Tuition Reciprocity Program

- If attending in SD, IA, Manitoba and ND, students will be approved on campus
  - All students attending in SD, IA, MB
  - New high school graduates attending in ND
- Otherwise, students should:
  - Use new state online financial aid application
  - Tuition reciprocity application
- Both available on: [www.ohe.state.mn.us](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us)
- State financial aid NOT available in other states (except SELF Loan)

# SELF Loan Program

- Available to students attending MN colleges or MN residents attending in other states
- No immigration requirements for borrower
  - Co-signer must be U.S. citizen or permanent resident, live in U.S. and have no adverse credit
- Should complete state online financial aid application
- Will also require a SELF loan application
  - [www.selfloan.state.mn.us](http://www.selfloan.state.mn.us) (online application for DACA students with SSN)
  - Pick up paper application at college (students without SSN)
- Up to \$20,000 per year for 4-year degree programs or graduate students
- Up to \$7,500 per year for shorter programs

# Financial Verification Documents

- Will need to submit signed copies of federal income tax return for previous tax year (e.g. 2015 for 2016-2017 school year)
  - Student (and spouse, if married)
  - Student and Parents (if student is dependent for financial aid purposes)
- If income was under threshold for filing a tax return, should submit W2s and signed statement indicating not required to file tax return and listing any additional income



# Financial Verification Documents

- If income was over threshold for filing federal tax return, student/parents must complete and submit a federal tax return
  - Can apply for and use ITIN (instead of SSN) to file tax return
  - Submit copy of completed form(s) to OHE with other MN Dream Act documentation

# 2015 Federal Tax Returns Required

<b>Tax Filing Status</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Gross Income at Least</b>
<b>Single</b>	<b>Under 65</b>	<b>\$10,300</b>
	<b>65 or older</b>	<b>\$11,850</b>
<b>Married filing jointly</b>	<b>Under 65 (both)</b>	<b>\$20,600</b>
	<b>65 or older (one)</b>	<b>\$21,850</b>
	<b>65 or older (both)</b>	<b>\$23,100</b>
<b>Married filing separately</b>	<b>Any age</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
<b>Head of Household</b>	<b>Under 65</b>	<b>\$13,250</b>
	<b>65 or older</b>	<b>\$14,800</b>
<b>Single and claimed as dependent</b>	<b>Under age 65</b>	<b>\$ 1,050 unearned income</b>
		<b>\$ 6,300 earned income</b>

# MN Dream Act State Financial Aid Application

- Undocumented students cannot file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - [www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct](http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct)
  - MN Dream Act State Financial Aid Application
- Application has instructions on-line in English and Spanish
- Student should reapply for state financial aid every year in college

# MN Dream Act State Financial Aid Application

GETREADY!

SELF Loan\*

Minnesota  
College Savings Plan

MINNESOTA OFFICE  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION


## Minnesota Dream Act Application

Solicitud de la Ley Dream de Minnesota

[Lea en español](#)

### Welcome!

Completion of the MN Dream Act state financial aid application is required to determine your eligibility for Minnesota state financial aid programs. Your application will be processed by the MN Office of Higher Education.

The MN Dream Act application should only be used by undocumented students who are **NOT** citizens or eligible non-citizens of the United States. (Students who are citizens or [eligible non-citizens](#) should apply for financial aid using the [FAFSA](#) )

MN Dream Act applicants must also meet the following requirements:

- Attended a Minnesota high school for at least three school years
- Graduated from a Minnesota high school or earned a GED in Minnesota
- Registered with the Selective Service System when 18 to 25 years old (male applicants only)

### You will NOT be able to:

- Complete part of your application, save it and log back in to complete it
- Submit corrections to your application after you have submitted it (you can contact our office to make corrections for you)



**Must  
complete  
in one  
sitting!**

# MN Dream Act State Financial Aid Application

- Students can call MN Office of Higher Education Grant Unit for assistance
  - (651) 642-0567 #2 Toll-free (800) 657-3866
  - Can arrange for translation services if student and/or parents don't speak English

# Special Considerations

- State Grant does not cover tuition and fees for most students
  - Some colleges offer institutional scholarships
    - U of M – Upromise
    - Private 4-year college scholarships
    - MnSCU – Some award Alliss Grants
  - Some colleges try to reserve State Work Study funds for these students
  - Some students will need to borrow private student loan or state SELF loan

# Special Considerations

- Some MN Dream Act students had to withdraw because they couldn't pay their tuition and fees
  - Most schools will arrange payment plan, but even those payments are tough to pay out of pocket for students
- Withdrawals put students in position of not being able to reenroll until past due amount paid off

# Special Considerations

- Many students have pursued college part-time prior to MN Dream Act
- Some now have hit the 4-year limit on postsecondary attendance for the State Grant program
- Parents may have received incorrect tax advice
  - Married couples told to file as head of household when they should apply as married



# Special Considerations

- Hard to identify undocumented students
- MN Dream Act applications are increasing, but word still needs to get out
  - 2013-2014 = 362
  - 2014-2015 = 620
  - 2015-2016 = 700
  - 2016-2017 = 526 (so far)

# Contact Information

- [www.ohe.state.mn/MNDreamAct](http://www.ohe.state.mn/MNDreamAct)

- Ginny Dodds

Manager, State Financial Aid

MN Office of Higher Education

(651) 355-0610

Ginny.Dodds@state.mn.us