



NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER
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The Economic Impact of New York City's Dreamers

without
DREAMERS
there is NO
American Dream #Defend
DACA

Legal Landscape

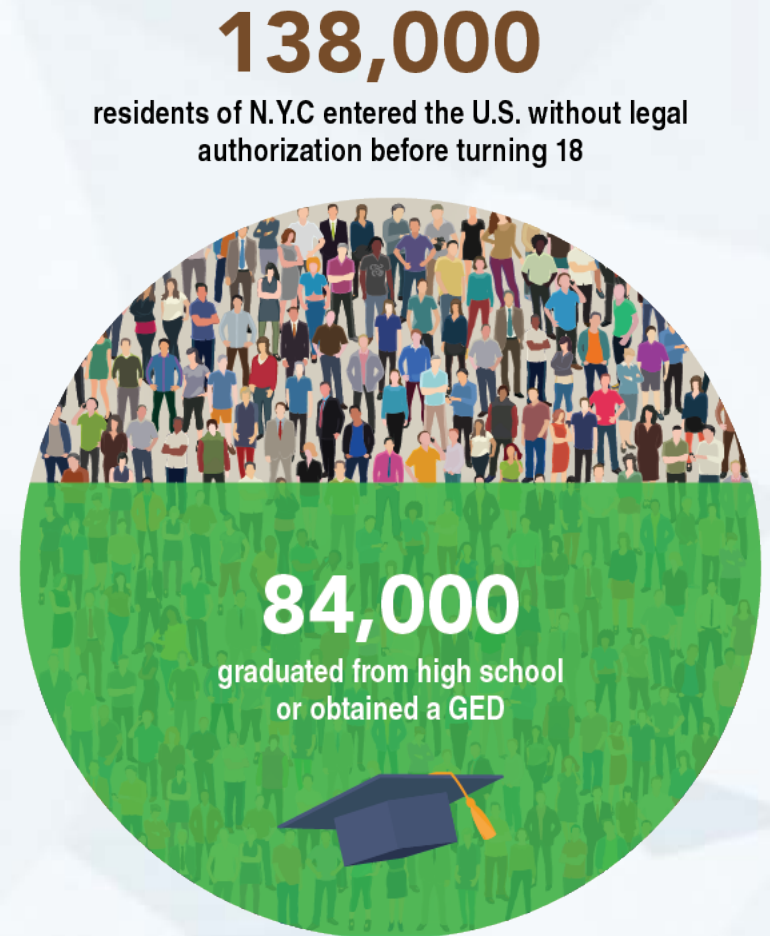
- On September 5, 2017 the Trump Administration announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA provides work authorization and protection from deportation for certain immigrants who entered the country as children.
- Beginning on March 6, 2018, DACA's protections will begin to expire causing program participants to lose work authorization and become more vulnerable to deportation.
- With DACA ending, a bipartisan group of Congressional leaders have introduced the DREAM Act. The legislation would provide eligible immigrants, including those previously eligible for DACA, with legal status and eventually a pathway to citizenship.



Dreamers in NYC

- Dreamers are those who arrived in the country without legal authorization before the age of 18 and have obtained a high school diploma or a similar credential.
- Estimates from the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs indicate that there are about 30,000 DACA recipients in New York City.
- The number of Dreamers in New York City is larger than the number of DACA recipients. There are an **estimated 138,000 residents of New York City** who entered the U.S. without legal authorization before turning 18.

Of those, about **84,000 have graduated from high school or obtained a GED**, a step needed to gain legal residency under the DREAM Act of 2017.



Economic Contribution of Dreamers

- In 2012 Dreamers contributed about 0.89 percent of Gross City Product, equal to about **\$7.33 billion in 2016**.
- Dreamers did not have legal status at this time, so this estimate is a baseline of the economic contributions of this population without any legal status.



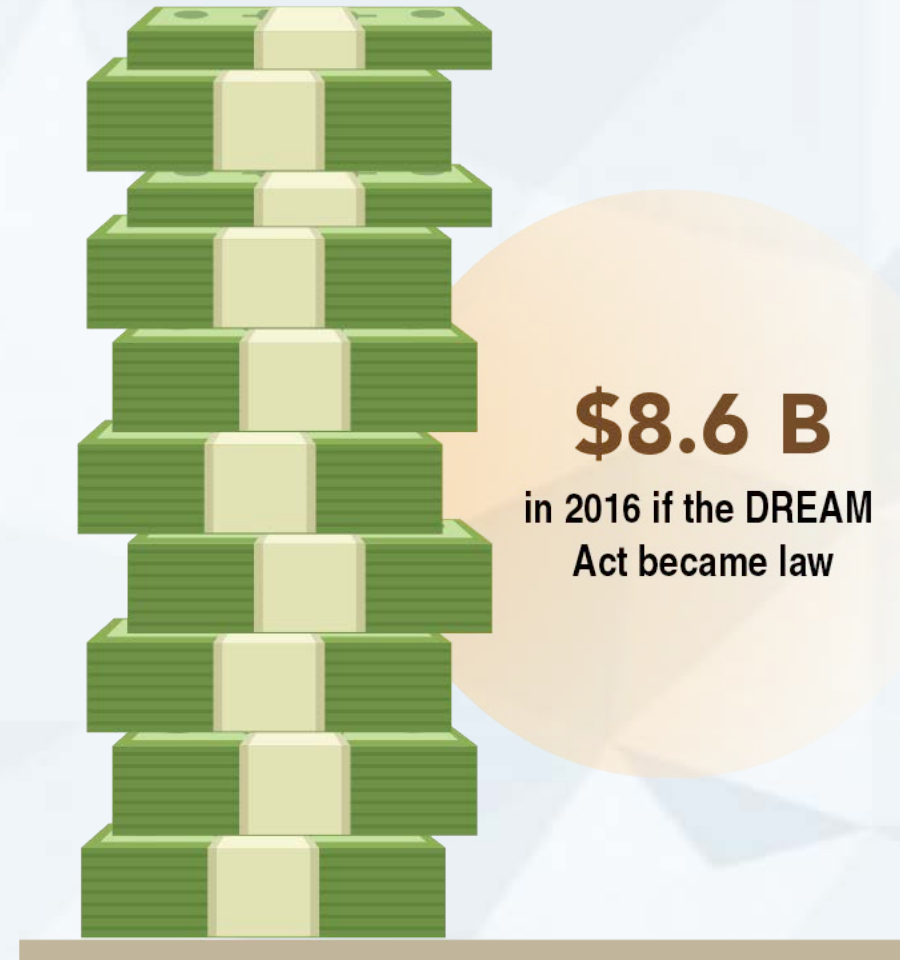
Benefits of Passing the DREAM Act

- Under the proposed DREAM Act, eligible immigrants may obtain permanent legal status if they have completed at least 2 years of higher education, served in the military, or worked for a substantial period of time.
- As many Dreamers have yet to reach this level of education, the ability to obtain permanent legal status can be expected to encourage many Dreamers to obtain additional education and skills, boosting productivity over the long term.
- This would lift Gross City Product by 0.16 percent each year, which would have equaled about **\$1.31 billion in additional economic activity in 2016.**



Dreamers Total Contribution if DREAM Act Became Law

- The cumulative economic contribution of the Dreamers would be about 1.05 percent of City GDP each year. **In 2016 this was equal to about \$8.6 billion.**



* Economic impact based on an analysis by CUNY Queens College Professor Francesc Ortega

