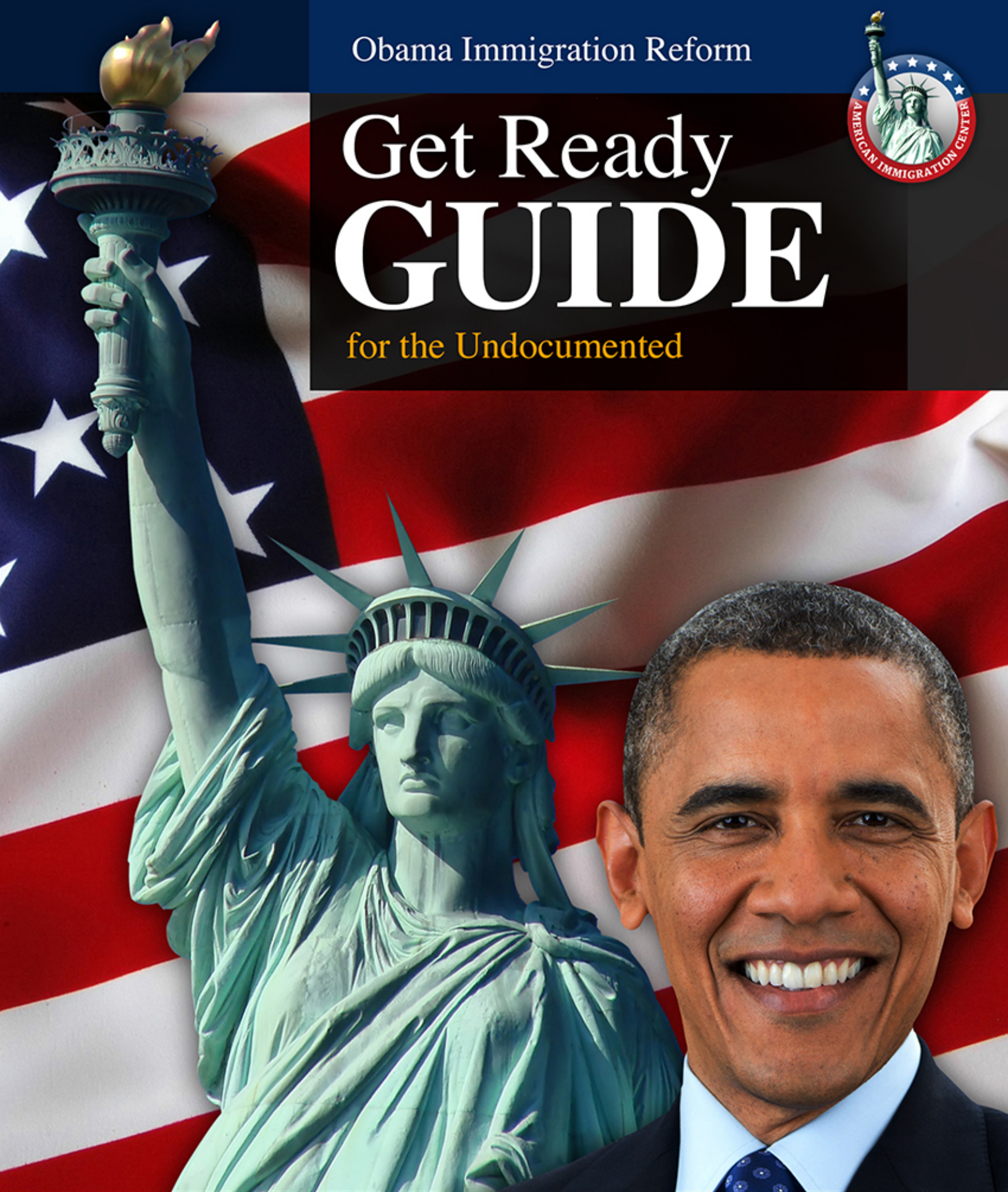


Obama Immigration Reform



# Get Ready GUIDE

for the Undocumented



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# ***Obama Immigration Reform: Get Ready Guide for the Undocumented***

## **Introduction**

President Barack Obama has announced his immigration executive order and 4.9 million undocumented immigrants can find relief in the Task Force on New Americans and Visa Modernization Orders. This ground-breaking action will help keep families together and may eventually lead to more permanent immigration reform.

The newest program offered by the U.S. government is Deferred Action for Parents, which includes the following requirements for undocumented immigrant parents of U.S. citizens or permanent residents:

- You must have lived in the U.S. since January 1, 2010.
- Your U.S. citizen or permanent resident child must have been born on November 20, 2014 or before.
- You cannot be an "enforcement priority." The new executive orders state that certain undocumented immigrants will be targeted for deportation based on criminal records. [Learn more here.](#)

But the big question on everyone's mind is what they can do to prepare and this guide can help you do just that. Some steps that you can take to prepare for the new immigration relief include:

- Saving money for the application fees
- Collecting documents to use as evidence in your application
- Knowing your rights as an undocumented immigrant in the U.S.
- And more...

More details and advice will become available over the coming months, so it is important for all undocumented immigrants to stay informed during their process to legal status.

## **DACA and Its Impact on Other Undocumented Immigrants**

This is not Obama's first executive action regarding undocumented immigrants. In 2012, he announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which provided administrative relief for undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children. Because they came to the U.S. as children, they are not considered responsible for their undocumented status.

Of the total number of undocumented immigrants who may have been eligible for DACA, only a portion actually applied.

Whatever the reason for the low turnout, people can still [apply for DACA](#) and receive immigration relief.

Learn more about what the DACA program entails and how to fill out and send your application [here](#).

Benefits of DACA include:

- The immigration departments will not actively pursue the deportation of DACA recipients
- They can also get employment authorization through the USCIS and can work legally in the U.S.

President Obama's most recent executive orders have changed some of the requirements and benefits of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Below is a list of the changes. You can find more information about the program [here](#).

- Applicants can extend their deferred action for three years now.
- Undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. when they were children can apply for DACA even if they are older than 31 years old. The age limit requirement has been lifted.
- Applicants only need to have continuously resided in the U.S. from January 1, 2010 to now.
- These new DACA requirements will be available on or around February 20, 2015.

## Six tips to Prepare for Your Relief Application

You might not be able to apply right away, but you can get ready for your application process by following the following steps.

Prepare now because the sooner you apply when the application becomes available, the sooner you will be granted immigration benefits.

### Save Money

All immigration benefits require a fee to be submitted along with the application itself.

It is estimated that the application fee for this newest version of immigration relief may be between \$500 and \$1500 per person.

It may take up to six months for the application to become available to the public and it is a very good idea to begin saving for the fee now.

Dividing the fee total by months or weeks might help you budget your savings. For example, to be ready to pay the fee when the application becomes available you should save:

- Between \$84 and \$250 a month or
- Between \$21 and \$63 a week

If you are helping others apply for their applications as well, multiply the above estimates by the number of applications you will need to submit.

### Gather Documents

Immigration applications typically require a set of documents used as evidence to prove that you qualify for the benefits offered by the executive action. These documents might show the following conditions:

- How long you have lived in the United States
- If you went to school
- If you ever had an immigration status
- Family relationships with U.S. permanent residents (Green Card holders) or citizens
- Family relationships with DACA recipients
- DACA status
- Military service
- And others

Some of the documents you might use to show that you meet the requirements of the new program may include:

- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificates
- Immigration documents
- School records
- Transcripts
- Diplomas or GED certificates
- Discharge papers from the U.S. armed forces
- Bank statements
- Tax records
- Copies of citizenship certificates or permanent resident cards (Green Cards)
- And others

When DACA was enacted, many immigrants had to get creative with documents to show that they met the requirements for the program and this new relief program may be the same way.

## Get Translations

USCIS usually requires that documents submitted as evidence in applications be in English. However, if your documents are in another language, you can have them translated in advance so that you are prepared to apply when the application becomes available.

Translated documents often come in groups of three documents to certify that they are authentic. The three documents are:

- The original foreign language document
- An affidavit from the translator that verifies the correctness of the translation
- The translated document

## Know Your Rights

Undocumented immigrants in the United States have rights, and it's important to be aware of them.

If you are in deportation or removal proceedings with Immigration and Customs Enforcement or belong to a group of undocumented immigrants who have been tagged for priority deportation, you should find a lawyer to represent you.

The same is true if you have a criminal record. Protecting your residence in the United States is important and a lawyer will be best able to help you stay in the U.S.

## Protect Yourself against Immigration Fraud

Immigration fraud can become a serious problem at times when changes to immigration processes occur. Keep the following things in mind to protect yourself against predatory people and organizations:

- Do not pay anyone for help until the application becomes available from the USCIS
- A Notario is not a lawyer in the United States. They are not necessarily qualified to help you with your immigration application
- Don't believe false promises. This executive order will not provide a path to citizenship. People or organizations that promise fast tracks to permanent residency or citizenship are lying.

## **Be Informed**

The executive order will announce the new program, but the details of the program and the way you benefit from it will become more apparent over the following months.

Keep on top of developing events by following the news and staying informed of the new program.

Help your friends and family be aware by sharing this document on social media or by passing it out.

For more information about Obama's immigration executive order call us at 866-460-6632