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The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which began in 2012, has already benefited more than 664,000 immigrant youths, protecting them from deportation and allowing them to work, study, and move forward with their lives. Despite the court order blocking President Obama's expansion of this program, the ***original DACA program is still running***. Youths who qualify should still apply. Youths whose DACA approval is expiring should apply to renew.

Earlier this year, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) incorrectly issued a few thousand DACA work permits that were valid for three years instead of two. ***USCIS is now trying to recall these incorrect work permits.***

The USCIS recall affects only those 3-year permits ***issued or mailed after February 16, 2015*** (the date of the court order blocking the expansion of DACA). Permits issued on or before that date are NOT affected. This recall affects 150-200 DACA grantees in the Chicago area. ***In most cases, USCIS has already mailed at least one notice.***

USCIS should issue a correct 2-year permit to each of these grantees if the agency has not done so already. DACA recipients with these permits do NOT need to reapply for DACA. There should be no impact on their jobs, their Social Security Numbers, their driver's licenses, or anything else arising from their permits.

DACA grantees who got three-year work permits issued or mailed after February 16, 2015, should turn in the permit at the local USCIS field office as soon as possible. In Chicago, the USCIS office is at 101 W. Congress. If the permit has been lost, stolen, or destroyed, or is otherwise unavailable, that loss should also be reported to the local USCIS office.

USCIS has announced further plans to try to contact people who do not turn in their incorrect work permits, including visits to their last known home addresses (a measure that ICIRR thinks could unnecessarily scare immigrant families). USCIS might also cancel the DACA grant and work permits of anyone who does not comply. The best way to avoid these measures is to turn in the incorrect work permit as soon as possible.

Anyone needing more information should call the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 (press option 8), or ICIRR's information line, 855-435-7693 (855-HELP-MY-FAMILY).