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CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, ROOM 17
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
PHONE: 312-744-6858

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
(CHAIRPERSON)

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(VICE-CHAIRPERSON)

BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEES AND RULES

ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

FINANCE

FINANCE: SUBCOMMITTEE ON REVENUE

PUBLIC SAFETY

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

June 11, 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS
COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD JUNE 11, 2026 AT 10:15AM

ITEMS

1. June 11 2026 Committee Meeting Notice
2. June 11 2026 Committee Meeting Agenda of Matters
3. May 2026 Rule 45 Report
4. R2026-0025433
5. "History & Current State of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)," NIJC
6. THE DREAM US Presentation
7. ICIRR Remarks
8. Testimony of Susana Salgado

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June 2, 2026

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Chicago City Council
Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights

will hold a meeting on **Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 10:15 AM**
in the **City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 121 North LaSalle Street -**
Chicago, IL 60602

Votes may be taken.

Written public comment on any of the items listed on the Agenda
will be accepted at CIRR@cityofchicago.org
until 10:15 AM on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

Copies of the Agenda of Matters to be considered at this meeting will be made
available electronically on the [Chicago City Clerk's website](#).

Sincerely,

Andre Vasquez, Jr., Chair
Committee on Immigrant and
Refugee Rights

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**AGENDA OF MATTERS
CONSIDERED
BY THE
Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Thursday, June 11, 2026
10:15
City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 121 North LaSalle Street - Chicago, IL
60602**

Roll Call(s)

Quorum

Attendance

Monthly Rule 45 Report

Approval of the May 2026 Rule 45 Report

Recommended Do Pass

[R2026-0025433](#)

Expression of support for preservation and expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program protections

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(CHAIRPERSON)
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COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT
MAY 2026

Pursuant to Rule 45 of the City of Chicago Rules of Order, the **Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights** submits the following Monthly Report for May 2026.

REFERRED MATTERS

1. [R2026-0023286](#)

REPORTS AND MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE

2. May 18 2026 Committee Meeting Notice
3. May 18 2026 Committee Meeting Agenda of Matters
4. [R2026-0023286](#)
5. SR2026-0023286

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT

The Committee received no public comments.

COMMITTEE MEETING: MAY 18, 2026

On May 18, 2026 at 10:15am, the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights held a Committee Meeting in Room 201A, City Hall.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established.

The following members were present: Chair Vasquez (40), Alderperson Gutierrez (14), Alderperson Fuentes (26), Alderperson Taliaferro (29), Alderperson Cardona (31), Alderperson Quezada (35), Alderperson Knudsen (43), and Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth (48) were present.

The following members requested and were granted a virtual option to attend via Rule 59: Alderperson Rodriguez (22) and Alderperson Cruz (30).

The following members were not present: Vice Chair Taylor (20), Alderperson Dowell (03), Alderperson Rodriguez Sanchez (33), Alderperson Hadden (49).

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public speakers were each given three minutes to provide their testimony:

- George Blakemore
- Danielle Carter
- Jessica Jackson
- Tiwon Sims
- Manuel Castro
- Dr. Rita D. Hernandez
- Qushona Harris

THE COMMITTEE ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT

1. Approval of the April 2026 Rule 45 Report
Recommended to Pass: Passed by the Committee

RESOLUTIONS

The following speakers provided testimony in support of the resolution below:

- Dr. Magdalena Rivera, CEO/President, Illinois Migrant Council and Member of the National Board of the Mexican American Heritage Day Association
- Pastor Lozano Remarks, United Lincoln Methodist Church.
- Roselia Suarez Montes de Oca, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico - Michoacan

The following resolution was then voted upon:

- [R2026-0023286](#), Commemoration of Mexican Heritage Day Association and support for a call to declare February 2nd as Mexican American Heritage Day.
Recommended to Pass - Passed as Substituted by Committee

A complete recap of the meeting can be found at <https://vimeo.com/119204929>

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Vasquez asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderperson Manaa-Hoppenworth so moved. Hearing no objections, Chairman Vasquez adjourned the meeting.

RESOLUTION HONORING 14 YEARS OF THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS PROGRAM AND THE LEGACY OF DACA RECIPIENTS

WHEREAS, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was created as an exercise of prosecutorial discretion on June 15th, 2012 by the Department of Homeland Security under the direction of President Obama to offer certain groups of people who came to the U.S as children temporary protection from deportation and a renewable two-year work authorization as a response to Congress' inaction to pass the DREAM Act; AND

WHEREAS, as of September 2025, nearly 26,850 DACA recipients reside in Illinois and about 505,940 nationwide as estimated by US Citizenship and Immigration Services, with the top countries of birth being Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and South Korea; AND

WHEREAS, since the program's creation, DACA recipients have been part of the fabric of our communities across the U.S., and as adults many of them have become professionals in different sectors, as teachers, business owners, non-profit leaders, doctors and nurses, and even in government service, growing the clientele of their employers and providing culturally-conscious care and services; AND

WHEREAS, as of March 2025, DACA recipients pay approximately \$6.2 billion dollars annually in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion annually in state and local taxes, with an estimated. 21,000 DACA recipients participating in the Illinois workforce; AND

WHEREAS, fourteen years following the program's creation, DACA recipients continue facing the overwhelming uncertainty of their future in this country they have called home for decades, due in large part to the concern of whether they will receive timely renewals for their DACA and work permits or face job loss and deportation if they do not; AND

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2026, CNN reported that such delays have caused between a 400 and 1000% increase in processing times, with the median wait time for renewals between October 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026 rising to 70 days compared to 15 days during federal fiscal year 2026, and many renewal applicants waiting much longer; AND

WHEREAS, a few of these stories reported by CNN include "a postpartum nurse at a hospital in Houston, a manager at an IT healthcare company in the Bay Area, and a retail manager who had been with the same company for seven years—all three of whom waited on unpaid leave for DACA renewals that never came and learned that their DACA had been terminated."; AND

WHEREAS, DACA remains under threat from federal administrative action and from litigation seeking to declare the program illegal and strip thousands of immigrants of their protection from deportation and their authorization to take employment; AND

WHEREAS, Despite clear protections under the DACA program, the up to 260 detentions and 170 deportations of DACA recipients quoted by the Department of Homeland Security since January 2025 reveal

serious concerns about compliance with established guidelines, court orders, and whether the due process rights of these community members have been respected; AND

WHEREAS, With President Trump’s deliberate efforts to destabilize whole communities using violent and unpopular militarized sieges to detain and deport our friends and family members across cities in the U.S over the past year and a half, the fourteenth anniversary of DACA is a reminder that millions of people have been denied finality of status, despite a pathway to citizenship being overwhelmingly popular; AND

WHEREAS, to quote President Obama “For all they have done for our nation, and all they will continue to do, DACA recipients and their families deserve better. Today, I’m renewing my call for Congress to redouble its efforts to build a smart and compassionate immigration system that offers Dreamers a path to citizenship. Let’s honor these Dreamers and everything they’ve done to strengthen our country. Let’s treat them like the Americans that they are. And let’s do everything we can to help build a commonsense immigration system that honors our heritage as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants. It’s on all of us to finish this work.”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor, Clerk and the City Council of the City of Chicago gathered on this day declare our support in preserving and expanding DACA protections and commit to advocating for DACA recipients living in Chicago and Illinois; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge our Congressional representatives to pass legislation that upholds DACA and grants DACA recipients and their families a path to lawful permanent status and US citizenship; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to President Trump, and the Illinois delegation to the United States Congress, as a sign of our dedication to and support of this important issue.

Alderwoman Jeyli B. Gutierrez
14th. Ward

ANDRE VASQUEZ
Alderpersion, 40th Ward

The following letter is being circulated by Alderperson Andre Vasquez, Ward 40 regarding a resolution commending the 14 year anniversary of the DACA program and honoring the legacy of DACA recipients, co-signed by:


Alderperson Ward 1

Alderperson Ward 2


Alderperson Ward 3

Alderperson Ward 4



Alderperson Ward 5

Alderperson Ward 6

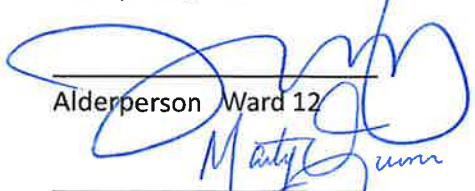
Alderperson Ward 7


Alderperson Ward 8

Alderperson Ward 9


Alderperson Ward 10


Alderperson Ward 11


Alderperson Ward 12

Alderperson Ward 13


Alderperson Ward 14

Alderperson Ward 15

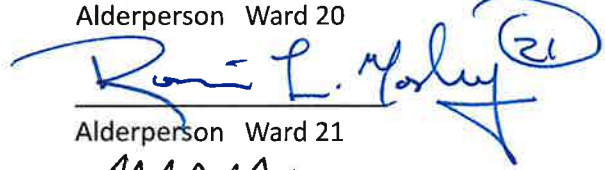
Alderperson Ward 16

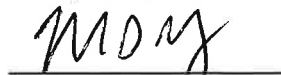
Alderperson Ward 17

Alderperson Ward 18

Alderperson Ward 19

Alderperson Ward 20


Alderperson Ward 21


Alderperson Ward 22

Alderperson Ward 23

Alderperson Ward 24

Alderperson Ward 25


Alderperson Ward 26

The following letter is being circulated by Alderperson Andre Vasquez, Ward 40 regarding a resolution commending the 14 year anniversary of the DACA program and honoring the legacy of DACA recipients, co-signed by:

Alderperson Ward 39




Alderperson Ward 27



Alderperson Ward 40

Alderperson Ward 28



Alderperson Ward 29

Alderperson Ward 41

Alderperson Ward 42

Alderperson Ward 30



Alderperson Ward 31

Alderperson Ward 43

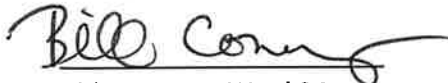


Alderperson Ward 44

Alderperson Ward 32

Alderperson Ward 45

Alderperson Ward 33



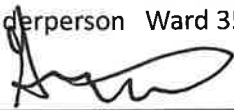
Alderperson Ward 34

Alderperson Ward 46



Alderperson Ward 47

Alderperson Ward 35



Alderperson Ward 36



Alderperson Ward 48

Alderperson Ward 37

Alderperson Ward 49

Alderperson Ward 38

Alderperson Ward 50

Mayor Johnson

The following letter is being circulated by Alderperson Andre Vasquez, Ward 40 regarding a resolution commending the 14 year anniversary of the DACA program and honoring the legacy of DACA recipients, co-signed by:

Clerk Valencia

**National
Immigrant
Justice
Center**

History & Current State of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

immigrantjustice.org

June 11, 2026



Road to DACA

Ongoing Legislative Fight

- ✓ First iteration of the Dream Act introduced in 2001 and has been introduced every Congress since
- ✓ 2010 – most traction, but failure to clear the House by 5 votes
- ✓ Most recently the Dream Act of 2025 was introduced

Organizing Efforts

- ✓ Undocumented, youth-led immigrant rights organizations began hosting “Coming Out of the Shadows” events across the United States
- ✓ Declaring themselves “Undocumented, Unafraid, and Unapologetic”

History of DACA Program



- USCIS began accepting applications on 08/15/2012
- Estimated 1.5 million eligible across U.S.
- Up to 75,000 in Illinois

- USCIS stops accepting initial DACA applications and provides short window for renewal
- ~ 10 lawsuits followed this announcement

- Court issued injunctions in ongoing litigation ordered USCIS to continue accepting DACA renewals
- Several lawsuits get consolidated and argued before the Supreme Court

- SCOTUS found that the Trump administration did not follow the procedures required by law when it terminated the DACA program.



After the June 2020 SCOTUS Decision...

- Series of memos from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) on restricting instead of restoring the DACA program
- Lawsuit that continues to impact applications today --> *Texas v. United States*

Today



DACA Renewals accepted but seeing processing delays

- We are currently experiencing 5-6 month delays in DACA renewal adjudications
- Many of our in-house and pro bono clients' benefits are lapsing and they are losing their jobs/access to employer-sponsored healthcare

Recent BIA Decision

- Matter of Santiago-Santiago 29 I&N Dec. 589 (BIA 2026)
- DACA status **alone** can no longer be used as a basis to defer or stop deportation proceedings

Risk of Enforcement

- DHS released conflicting information

NIJC's Work with DACA

- NIJC has held over 210 clinics with pro bono partners since 2012
- We have a nearly 100% approval rate for our cases
- We have clients returning to us for the 8th time to renew through NIJC and/or our pro bono clinics
- Thanks to **New Americans Initiative (NAI)** and the **Legal Protection Fund (LPF)**, NIJC can provide FREE legal representation with DACA applications to Illinois residents





Importance of Legal Consultations

Center for Migration Studies – 2014 Survey

- ✓ CLINIC and NIJC participated in a survey conducted by Professor Tom Wong
- ✓ 14.3% of individuals screened for DACA eligibility were found to be potentially eligible for a more permanent form of relief
 - We have screened for the following:
 - Family-based options
 - Asylum
 - SIJS
 - U Visa
 - VAWA
- Funding for immigration legal services continues to be a critical resource
 - ✓ Must maintain funding for **Chicago Legal Protection Fund (LPF)**
 - Provides FREE immigration legal services to Chicago residents

Contact Us

Cecilia Mendoza

Associate Director of Government Relations

cmendoza@immigrantjustice.org

Visit immigrantjustice.org

Connect with NIJC

immigrantjustice.org



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/Donate



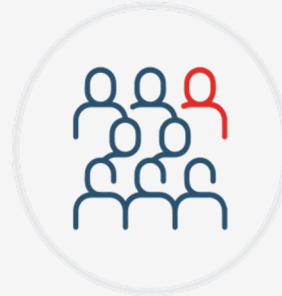
National Immigrant Justice Center



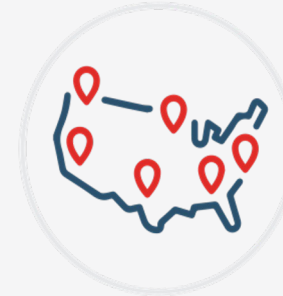
@ImmigrantJustice

TheDream.US

Who We Are



Nation's largest and leading organization supporting Dreamers in higher education, careers, immigration, and advocacy



13,000+ Scholarships awarded
5,000+ Graduates
19 states + D.C.
close to 80 Partner Colleges



Goal:
9,750+ Graduates with meaningful careers

Read the Report:
When Dreamers Rise, Our Cities Rise



Of the 1,000+ Scholars Awarded in IL,
400+ have graduated

Alumni Takeaways:

- **2 of 3** are outearning their parents combined
- ~**\$12M** in annual earnings
- ~**\$3M** in local, state, federal taxes
- Concentrated in Business, Education, Public & Social Services, Health & Medicine
- Talent is staying local



State and Federal Action is Critical

3 of 4 IL TheDream.US Scholars currently enrolled in college are fully undocumented

~3,000 undocumented students graduating from IL high schools annually

Impact of chronic uncertainty impacts all Dreamers and their families



3 minutes

Good morning, my name is Sofia Chunga, and I am a Program Coordinator with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR).

Together with over 100 member and partner organizations, ICIRR represents diverse immigrant and refugee communities throughout the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois. We organize as a coalition for an equitable society rooted in dignity and respect for all, regardless of immigration status.

One of those resources is through ICIRR's New Americans Initiative program (NAI), where community organizations across Illinois provide citizenship and DACA application renewal assistance to immigrant communities. This includes an income- and need-based scholarship program that covers the DACA renewal fee for eligible applicants. This renewal is supposed to happen every two years, currently with a fee of \$555 or \$605 depending on whether it is submitted on paper or online, and it doesn't guarantee your renewal will be approved.

Five years ago, ICIRR announced our DACA renewal scholarship in fiscal year 2022. Since then, over 9,400 DACA recipients have received the scholarship, including individuals that have gone on to become staff at ICIRR or other member organizations.

Every year since then, we have organized to win critical funding for community organizations to administer the NAI program in their communities across the city and state. At every level, the DACA protections and, by extension the resources that are available, only exist because of the organizing and resilience of immigrant youth and families.

Last quarter, a partner organization shared their experience with several challenges that may impact its progress. For DACA renewal applicants, Hanul Family Alliance reports receiving an increasing number of concerning calls from individuals who report that many applicants, despite applying four to five months in advance, are still waiting for approvals. As a result, many are now seeking to file their renewals six to eight months before expiration, risking rejection from the administration for filing too early. These systemic uncertainties pose real threats to DACA recipients who are at risk for losing their jobs and ability to stay afloat with a rapidly increasing cost of living, leaving thousands of individuals and families in limbo for their futures.

Over the last 14 years, DACA has been a lifeline for so many immigrants in the City of Chicago. At the same time, the temporary nature of this program has proved to be burdensome for many people. It's been difficult for many to simply continue to support their families. It is clear how attacks on DACA, including the increasing delays for renewals and the detention and deportation of DACA recipients, have exacerbated conditions of vulnerability and uncertainty. These conditions ripple across our communities, compounded by the ongoing relentless operations by ICE in cities across the country.

Already we know that access to DACA has been limited, and that we must continue to both ensure immediate relief and demand the pathway to legalization for all that our families and communities deserve. We urge Congress to move forward legislation like Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929, which would provide a clear and simple avenue for people in the US for at least seven years, including DACA recipients, to gain lawful permanent resident status and ultimately become full citizens of this country.

Finally, we continue to invite community members to stay connected and reach out for questions through the ICIRR Family Support Network. By calling 1-855-435-7693, we can make connections to a full range of support in collaboration with member organizations, including DACA resources. Thank you.

"I can't do anything with you; you don't have a social security number," My senior year counselor simply told me. As a national honor society member, those words crushed my dreams and hopes of becoming an astronaut.

My name is Susana, and I will share with you how DACA opened doors for me, the contributions DACA recipients have made to the City of Chicago, and how uncertain my life is right now.

In 2012, all dreamers won Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and with this, many doors were opened. I was able to get a Social Security number, get a driver's license, and see my grandparents after 26 years. One of the most important doors that opened was the door to college. I'm the first one in my family to earn a college degree. I'm the director of the youth leadership and academic development program at Centro Romero. I'm a published author in research studies and a book.

As a city resident, I joined many education campaigns with coalitions at the city and state levels, which led to the creation of the Office of College and Career Success in Chicago's public schools. Nowadays, all high school counselors receive training on understanding their students' immigration status and the scholarships available to everyone.

I participated in Scholarship panels of State Senators to provide scholarships to young people with the greatest needs and academic achievement. During

the COVID-19 pandemic, many DACA recipients served as vital frontline and essential workers in health care and social services, including myself and other key staff who are DACA recipients, who kept the youth program open during the pandemic. I have organized City Key events, where residents can get an Identification card and feel that Chicago is their home. Like me, other DACA recipients have contributed to the city.

My doctor said I have to lower my stress. He does not understand that for the last year and a half, my life has been uncertain. Every day I wake up thinking about what is going to happen with my immigration status. I have been renewing my work authorization for the last 14 years. My good moral character can't be questioned, yet there's still no path to citizenship for me. Last year, our legal department helped me apply for permanent residency through a family petition. However, due to the constant attack and the way to block immigration relief for us, my wait time has been longer than usual. My grandma passed away three weeks ago, and I could not see her again. Recently, I bought a home, and I'm worried that my permanent resident card or work permit will not arrive on time, which could affect my dream of being a homeowner. I'm a community leader, and not only is my mental health being affected due to this uncertainty, but also the mental health of other community members is being affected, like USA citizen children who are

aware that their teachers, health care providers, role models, and parents live with uncertainty.

As a community leader, I understand that social justice comes when comprehensive approaches are taken into account, addressing multiple social, economic, and cultural needs. Our need for us now is for the City of Chicago to support us. Support us by approving the DACA resolution and continuing to fund city programs like the Chicago Legal Protection Fund that provide education, support, and legal advice on Know Your Rights to all city residents.

I'm a dreamer just like you. I still have dreams to achieve. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" and our dreams are beautiful. Thank you for being our partner in accomplishing dreams for Chicago residents like me.