

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Congress has been implementing immigration legislation that prioritizes unifying families since 1965, and protecting the integrity of the family unit has always been an American value. When talking about policies that bring family members together like sponsorships, “family reunification” is the official USCIS terminology.

CHAIN MIGRATION

“Chain migration” is a term sometimes heard in place of “family reunification”, and this language should be avoided in order to preserve the dignity of our valued immigrant communities. “Chain migration” can carry with it a derogatory connotation that undermines the importance of family unity and the contributions of foreign nationals.

As of now, U.S. citizens may petition for their spouses, children, parents and siblings over 21 to receive a Green Card for lawful permanent residence.

Most immigration bills proposed under this administration would limit family reunification petitions to spouses and unmarried children.

DACA

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a policy that allows some people who entered the U.S. without documentation when they were children to be protected from deportation and to work legally.

DREAMER

So-called after the bipartisan DREAM Act bill of 2001, “DREAMers” are recipients of DACA. President Trump announced an end to this program in 2017, and DACA will expire in March 2018 if Congress does not act.

UAC

Unaccompanied Alien Children (UACs) are minors who enter the U.S. undocumented and without an adult caretaker. Once identified, they are enrolled in a family reunification program, as well as deportation proceedings.

CAM

The Central American Minors refugee program was designed to give children in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala the opportunity to escape gang violence and poverty in their home countries to relocate to the U.S. under refugee status.