

# RURAL DACA BY THE NUMBERS

*Ending DACA will cost U.S. economy more than \$460 billion over next decade; hurt rural economies and communities*

Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients play a large role in rural communities, where their economic contributions are helping rural towns get back on their feet from years of slow economic growth. In rural America, these estimated tens of thousands of young people are part of the answer to building sustainable economies in small towns across the country.

**91%** of DACA recipients living in rural areas are employed.

**5%** of rural DACA recipients started their own businesses after entering the program, becoming entrepreneurs and small business owners.

**64%** of rural recipients got their first job after being approved for the program.

**70%** of rural recipients were able to better support their families financially due to higher earnings.

**63%** of rural recipients pursued education opportunities previously not open to them after receiving DACA.

**51%** of rural recipients got jobs that better fit their long-term career goals after they were approved for DACA.

**61%** of rural recipients got jobs with health insurance or other benefits after being approved for DACA.

**18%** of rural recipients work in health care-related occupations, at a time when 77% of rural counties face health care professional shortages.

**66%** of rural recipients purchased a new car because they became eligible to apply for driver's licenses, spending on average \$16,500 in their local economies.

**58%** of rural recipients obtained their first credit card after receiving DACA, allowing them to build their spending power and support local business.

**22%** of rural recipients purchased a home for the first time in their communities after being approved for DACA.

[1] Rural/urban breakdown of the Wong et al. survey: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/08/28/437956/daca-recipients-economic-educational-gains-continue-grow/>

[2] JEC analysis based on data from the HRSA Data Warehouse and rural county designations by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. Medically underserved counties are defined as counties with at least one federally-designated medically underserved area or population; and, <https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/shortage-designation/what-is-shortage-designation>