

Dear Adult Education Provider:

As you may know, on June 15, 2012, the Obama Administration announced that it would begin to take steps to defer action on the deportation of certain undocumented young people in the United States and provide them the opportunity to work legally through a process known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. While the City of New York neither formally encourages nor discourages individuals to request deferred action, our aim is to provide information, access to documents, and referrals to qualified legal service providers for those who are interested in this opportunity.

Why does this concern your organization? Due to the specific criteria for deferred action that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has articulated, you may have already begun to see an increase in applications for enrollment in your adult education programs, as well as an increase in requests for documentation of enrollment from current students. In addition to meeting other key guidelines, individuals may request Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals from USCIS if they “are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, or have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate.”

USCIS has indicated that enrollment in educational programs—such as some adult literacy, career training and ESL programs—that are designed to lead to placement in postsecondary education, job training or employment, and that are either partially-funded by federal or state grants or are administered by providers of demonstrated effectiveness, may qualify as enrollment in school for the purpose of determining eligibility for deferred action. For additional guidelines from USCIS, see the attached document or visit www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals.

If a current student requests documentation of enrollment from you, USCIS has indicated that evidence of enrollment may include: acceptance letters, school registration cards, letters from school or program, transcripts, report cards, or progress reports showing the name of the school or program, date of enrollment, and current educational or grade level, if relevant. Students with inquiries about deferred action may also be directed to www.nyc.gov/deferredaction for more information, including the following:

- Information about the eligibility criteria and application process for deferred action
- The process for accessing documents such as school and medical records from City agencies
- Where to find free legal assistance and how to avoid and report immigration scams

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this new process and how it may affect your organization or your students, please do not hesitate to contact the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs by calling 212-788-7654 or emailing moia@cityhall.nyc.gov.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Best regards,



Michelle Light, Executive Director
NYC Office of Human Capital Development



Fatima Shama, Commissioner
Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs