Two Years of DACA Implementation: Learning from the Metro Experience

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The Pew Charitable Trusts

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B | **Metropolitan Policy Program**
at BROOKINGS

Project objectives

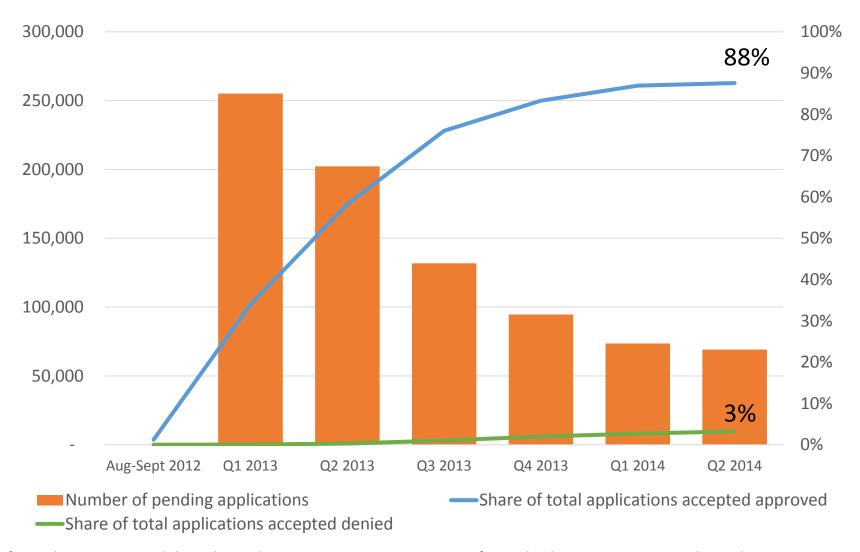Presenting a metropolitan-level analysis of DACA applicants will help us understand:

- The behavior of the potentially eligible population
- The role of non-profit advocacy, community-based organizations, and municipal actors in recruiting and assisting potential applicants
- The administrative response by USCIS

These findings offer a set of recommendations about the implementation of an additional executive action based on lessons from the DACA program
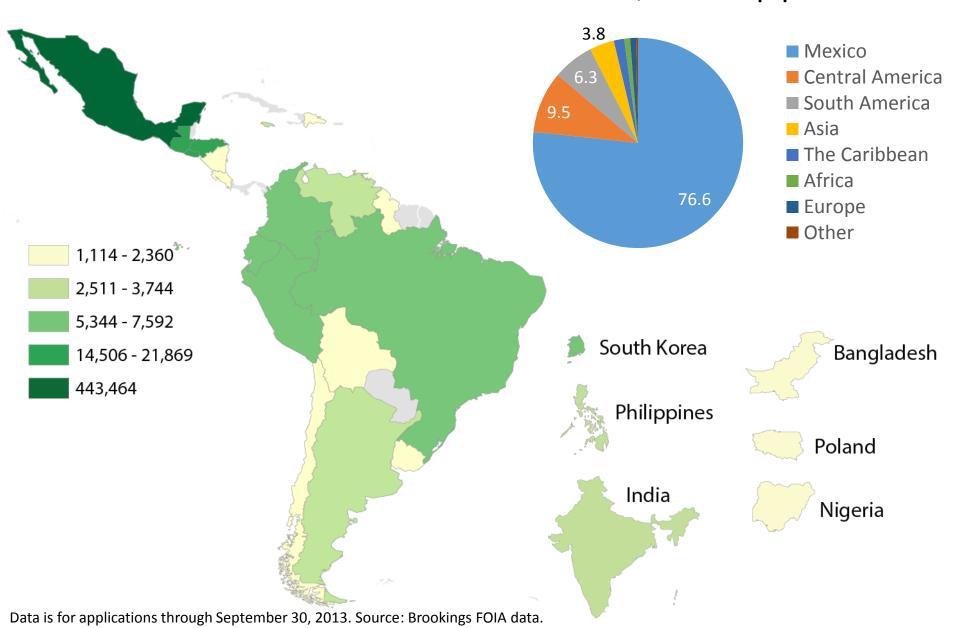
Who are the DACA population?

- DACA-ready [immediately eligible]

- Future eligible [will age in]

- Eligible with education [not currently enrolled in the U.S.]

- Eligible for other statuses [SIJ or U visa]
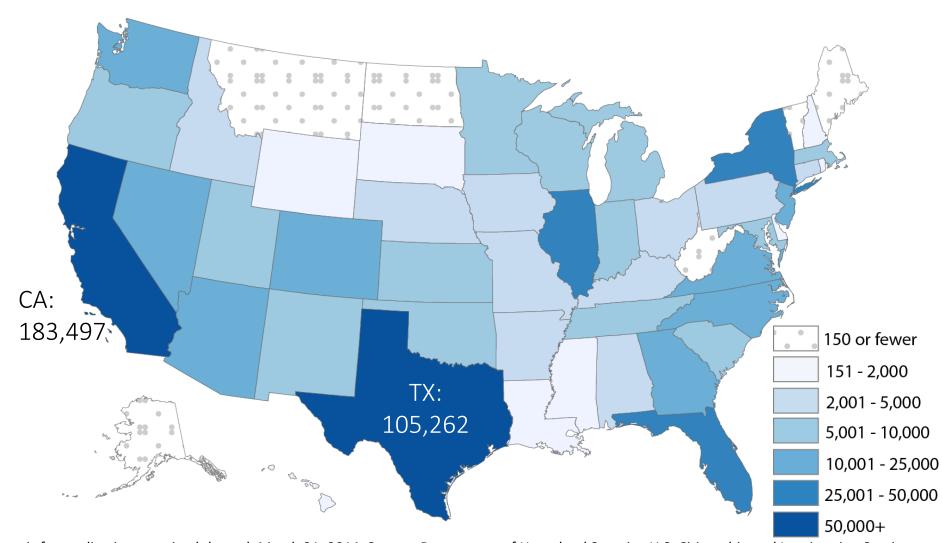
DACA applications by quarter

Data is for applications received through March 31, 2014. Source: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Biometrics Capture System*, *CIS Consolidated Operational Repository (CISCOR)*, May 2014.

At least 25 countries have over 1,000 applicants

Legend:
- 1,114 - 2,360
- 2,511 - 3,744
- 5,344 - 7,592
- 14,506 - 21,869
- 443,464

Pie chart legend:
- Mexico — 76.6
- Central America — 9.5
- South America — 6.3
- Asia — 3.8
- The Caribbean
- Africa
- Europe
- Other

Labeled countries: South Korea, Bangladesh, Philippines, Poland, India, Nigeria

Data is for applications through September 30, 2013. Source: Brookings FOIA data.

DACA applicants by state

CA:
183,497

TX:
105,262

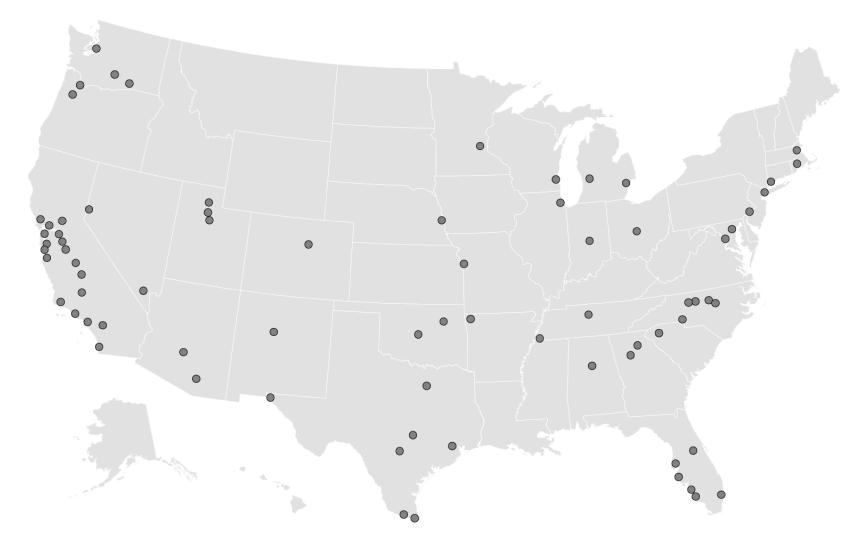|	
	150 or fewer
	151 - 2,000
	2,001 - 5,000
	5,001 - 10,000
	10,001 - 25,000
	25,001 - 50,000
	50,000+

Data is for applications received through March 31, 2014. Source: Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Biometrics Capture System*, *CIS Consolidated Operational Repository (CISCOR)*, May 2014.
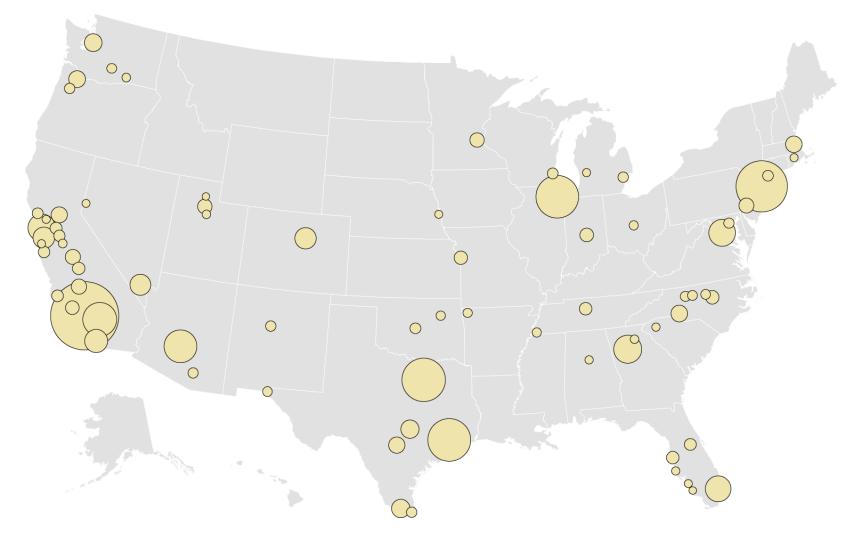
USCIS recently released data on applicants in 75 metros

Number of applicants range from 1,000 to 78,000

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Metro
Number — Share of Total

San Francisco
12,600 − 2%

Chicago
30,600 − 5%

New York
44,400 − 8%

Washington, DC
12,200 − 2%

Riverside
19,000 − 3%

Los Angeles
78,000 − 13%

Phoenix
17,700 − 5%

Atlanta
13,200 − 2%

Dallas
31,400 − 5%

Houston
30,900 − 5%

Note: Rates and totals are subject to rounding per USCIS.
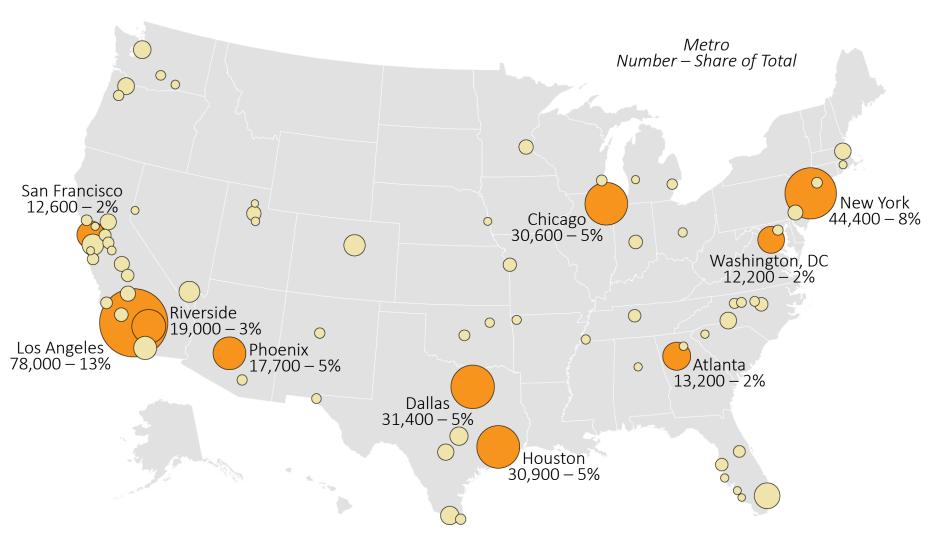Data is for applications through September 30, 2013. Source: Brookings analysis of USCIS data.
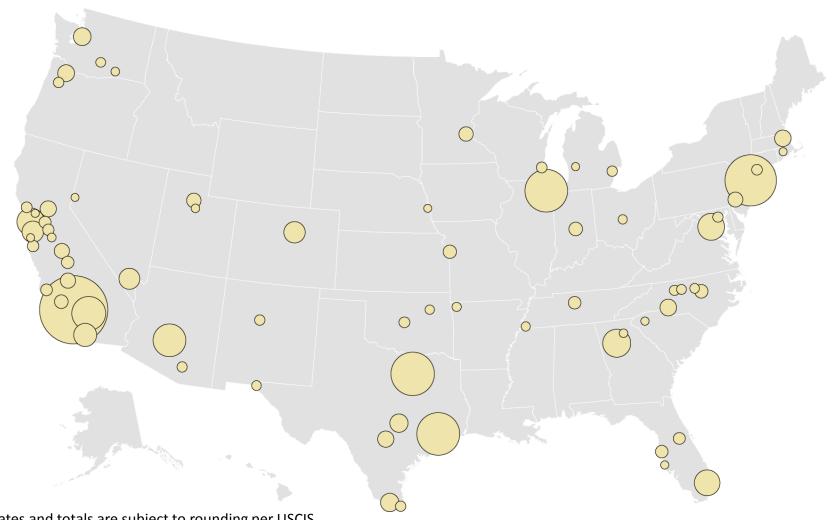
Where are approvals highest and lowest?

Note: Rates and totals are subject to rounding per USCIS.
No approval data available for Orem, UT; Birmingham, AL; Cape Coral, FL; Naples, FL.
Data is for applications through September 30, 2013. Source: Brookings analysis of USCIS data.

Smaller metros in the West as well as Chicago have the highest approval rates

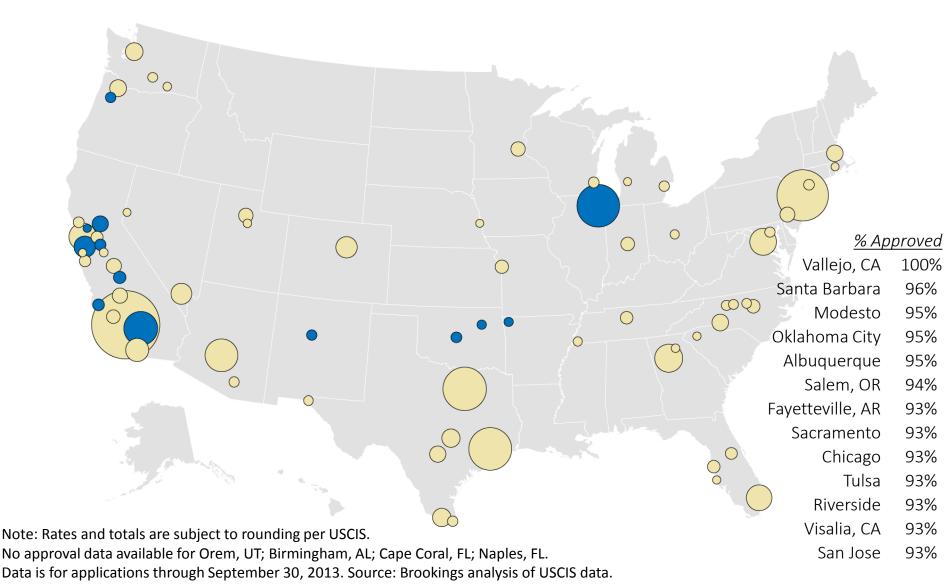| % Approved	
Vallejo, CA	100%
Santa Barbara	96%
Modesto	95%
Oklahoma City	95%
Albuquerque	95%
Salem, OR	94%
Fayetteville, AR	93%
Sacramento	93%
Chicago	93%
Tulsa	93%
Riverside	93%
Visalia, CA	93%
San Jose	93%

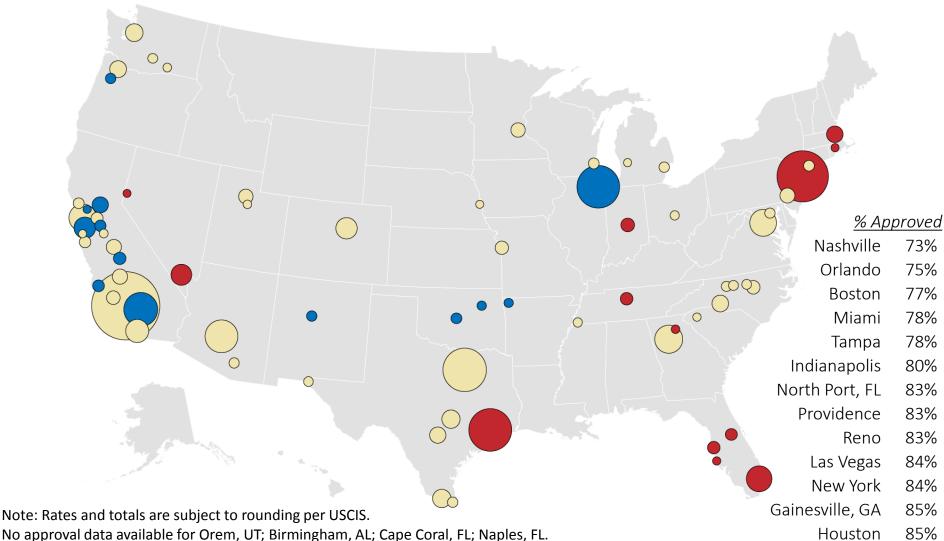Note: Rates and totals are subject to rounding per USCIS.
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Data is for applications through September 30, 2013. Source: Brookings analysis of USCIS data.

Metros in Florida and Nevada, Boston, and Indianapolis have the lowest DACA approvals

	% Approved
Nashville	73%
Orlando	75%
Boston	77%
Miami	78%
Tampa	78%
Indianapolis	80%
North Port, FL	83%
Providence	83%
Reno	83%
Las Vegas	84%
New York	84%
Gainesville, GA	85%
Houston	85%
Charlotte	85%

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Early findings from interviews in six metros
(Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, New York, San Francisco)

Temporal Aspects

How does timing of application & adjudication help explain different rates across places?

- Initial cases were more likely to be among the DACA-ready

- More complex cases came in later and have taken longer to adjudicate

- Renewals are tied to adjudication, not application

Early findings from interviews in six metros
(Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, New York, San Francisco)

Place matters

Many factors contribute to DACA's level of success in individual metros.

- History of immigrant settlement and diversity of origins for the foreign born population

- Existing and new service infrastructure

- State policies on education and driver's licenses, legislative policy toward foreign born as a whole

- Age composition of applicants/undocumented youth

Early findings from interviews in six metros
(Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, New York, San Francisco)

Barriers

What is preventing DACA eligible youth from applying?

- Lacking: documentation or funds

- Emotions: fear, shame, hope for better option

- Perceptions: archetypical "DREAMer" complicates both self-identification and outreach

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