

# DREAM SUMMER 2017

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Below are the answers to some of the frequently asked questions we have come across.

### Key Dates & Deadlines

1. When is my application due? How soon can I expect to hear back from the Dream Summer Program?

All applications are due by **11:59 PM on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**. The selection process for Dream Summer will occur on a rolling basis, with each cohort giving priority to those who select specific programs in their application (see "SECTION 3: COHORTS" in the application).

The first round of placement selections will take place in April. Applicants who are wait-listed for selection after this will be eligible for the second round, which will take place in May. You will be updated on the status of your application throughout this period. We hope to have all placements finalized by **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

**Application Deadline – March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Notification Deadline – Rolling: April ~ May 2017**

2. When are the Los Angeles Retreats? Is attendance mandatory?

There will be two retreats taking place in Los Angeles: our Program Opening in June and our Program Closing in August. Retreat days are typically all-day, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

Please plan on attending all days of both opening and closing retreats if accepted into the program. All Fellows are required to participate in both in order to complete Dream Summer.

**Opening Retreat – June 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

**Closing Retreat – August 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### Who Can Apply

1. I am not undocumented. Can I apply to Dream Summer?

YES. Dream Summer is open to undocumented I immigrant youth and allies.

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2. I am not a DACA recipient or DACA eligible. Can I apply to Dream Summer?

YES. Dream Summer does not discriminate based on immigration status.

What is DACA? <http://1.usa.gov/1FV8DQg>

What is an ITIN? <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/General-ITIN-Information>

3. I am not a College or University student. Can I apply to Dream Summer?

YES. College or University enrollment is NOT required.

4. I am not a high school graduate and I do not have a GED. Can I apply to Dream Summer?

YES. Dream Summer does NOT have a High School or a GED requirement.

5. Organizing for immigrant rights is new to me. Can I apply to Dream Summer?

YES. Dream Summer supports continuing and emerging leaders in the immigrant rights movement. Through the program, fellows develop their skills and meet fellow youth leaders from across the country.

6. I am currently a minor under 18 years of age. Can I apply to Dream Summer?

Participants must be 18 years old by June 19, 2017, in order to apply.

7. I am no longer a youth between the ages of 18 and 28. Can I apply to Dream Summer?

Dream Summer generally admits youth applicants from the ages of 18 to 28. There are exceptions based on applicant circumstances. We highly encourage individuals who do not qualify for DACA to apply.

### Fellowship Location

8. I don't live in the exact city or region where Dream Summer placements are hosted. Can I apply to Dream Summer?

We recommend that you apply to a listed city or region ONLY if you live within comfortable traveling distance. The Dream Summer program and host organizations do NOT provide funding for transportation.

9. I do not live near any of the listed cities or regions where Dream Summer placements are hosted. Can I apply to Dream Summer?

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Relocating for a Dream Summer placement is a personal choice. The Dream Summer program and host organizations do NOT provide funding for rent or living expenses.

### Cohort Questions

#### 10. What are Dream Summer Cohorts?

Dream Summer Fellows will be placed into one of four (4) cohorts this year, each tasked with a specific project for the summer that will enhance and complement their placement at a host organization. Members of these cohorts will receive specialized training in addition to the general development provided to all Dream Summer participants, and will have an opportunity to work in a more specified area of interest. All fellows are expected to participate in both their cohort and summer host organization workplan.

For 2017, our program will feature the following cohorts:

- The Undocumented Justice Cohort, placing a high emphasis on the safety of immigrant communities and the development of a national support network.
- The Labor Cohort, addressing the intersectional presence of immigrant workers in the local and national labor movement.
- The Silicon Valley Cohort, which will engage participants to develop institutional and community resources that reflect the participation of immigrant youth in the economic workforce development of Silicon Valley.
- The Unaccompanied Minors Cohort, specifically aiming to provide leadership development to youth who independently migrated to the United States and place them in a position to support their local communities.

#### 11. What is the Labor Cohort?

Dream Summer's first Labor Cohort was launched in 2015 as a way of addressing the intersectionality between labor and immigrant issues. Participants in this cohort will be uniquely positioned to address these points, while developing in-depth experience in the U.S. labor movement. Among the areas of focus are: corporate research, policy analysis, coalition building, curriculum development, strategic planning and communications (varies by host site). To hear some experiences from past fellows, check out these two videos:

SEIU Labor cohort: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSoAJ40OB2g>

DS Labor cohort: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvHP0Dr9Luw>

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### 12. What is the Undocumented Justice Cohort?

The mission of this cohort will be to unite young immigrant leaders on key issues and challenges on both a national and local level. The Undocumented Justice Cohort will provide participants with the tools necessary to disseminate information (ex. Know Your Rights) to their communities in conjunction with their presence at summer host organizations, and facilitate additional support of strategic initiatives to defend and expand the rights of immigrant communities.

### 13. What is the Silicon Valley Cohort?

The Dream Summer Silicon Valley Cohort will focus on engaging participants to pursue institutional changes that reflective of immigrant youth in the economic workforce development of the Silicon Valley. Local challenges, such as housing, education and financial stability for undocumented communities in the region will be the highest priority. These specific policy recommendations are outlined in [our 2016 report on the State of Undocumented Youth in the Silicon Valley](#).

### 14. What is the Unaccompanied Minors Cohort?

The unaccompanied minors' cohort will focus on the leadership development of fellows whom independently migrated to the United States before the age of eighteen. The Unaccompanied Minors' cohort will place fellows in strategic organizations to address the contemporary issues unaccompanied minors face, including: legal representation, criminalization, and access to higher education.

### 15. Can I apply to all the cohorts?

Yes, by completing the full application and answering the cohort-specific questions, your application will be eligible for all cohorts.

However, Applicants who do not identify a cohort in their initial submission will not receive priority consideration for those placements. During our first round of review, these individuals will be placed on a wait list for any cohorts with remaining slots during the second round of the selection process.

### 16. What if I've never worked with specific issues (i.e. labor) before? Can I still apply?

Yes, we encourage individuals to apply regardless of previous experience in the areas of labor or health.

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### Summer Commitments

17. I might enroll in summer school this year. Can I participate in Dream Summer?

It is not recommended that selected fellows participate in summer school. The placements are a 10-week, full-time commitment. Some placements may require evening and weekend availability. Plan accordingly.

18. I don't have a Social Security Number (SSN). What is an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and how can I get one?

An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is a nine-digit tax processing number issued by the Internal Revenue Services to individuals who are not eligible to obtain a Social Security Number (SSN). ITINs are issued regardless of immigration status, and both residents and nonresidents can obtain one if necessary.

**Dream Summer will request either an ITIN or a SSN upon acceptance to the program.**

More information on ITIN and how to obtain one is available at:

<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/General-ITIN-Information>

19. I was granted a work permit but have not applied for a Social Security Number yet. Will this affect my application process?

NO. We do not ask for a Social Security Number (SSN) for the initial application. However, you will need to provide your SSN upon acceptance. Therefore, if you are eligible, we strongly recommend that you make an appointment to apply for a SSN as soon as possible.

### Travel and Lodging

20. Do I have to pay for travel, lodging, and meals when attending the orientation training and closing retreats in Los Angeles?

Dream Summer will cover: all air travel (if applicable), meals, lodging expenses, and in certain cases will reimburse for any ground travel (if applicable).

Please prepare yourself financially **to spend anywhere between \$20~50 at the beginning of the program**, as all **reimbursements take at least 6 to 8 weeks to process** for each applicant.

**\*Note:** Applicants flying out of state will be given air travel priority. Ground travel reimbursement will only be granted to those who meet specific criteria.

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21. I have never traveled by air before. How would I be able to fly to the retreats?

Dream Summer will provide advice and guidelines on how to travel safely. To prepare for any possible travel complication, we can refer you to legal assistance during travel dates. We will also have a travel point person available to have a one-on-one conversation with anyone who may have questions or concerns

### Fellowship Award

22. When will I receive my fellowship award?

**Currently we cannot confirm specific date/s as to when fellowship awards will be ready.** As such the timeframe for release of the awards is still pending, and it will be updated on this page as soon as information becomes available. **We ask you to plan accordingly for 10 weeks.** Also, please note we have had complications in the past with the awards being delayed.

23. Can I have the check sooner, I need to pay for living costs and or school cots?

No. Once date/s are confirmed for awards to be released, we are unable to provide awards sooner under any circumstance. We encourage all applicants to financially prepare ahead of time.

24. Is the fellowship award a scholarship?

No. The fellowship award is not a scholarship and is taxable income. Recipients will receive a 1099 from the issuing entity. Any further tax related questions should be directed to your tax preparer.

25. If I do not receive a 1099 or need it to be reissued, how can I get one?

Staff can provide you with the contact information for the person who handles re-issuing the 1099's. You will need to call on your own.

26. Can I tell my tax preparer that I am self-employed with a 1099?

Please consult your tax preparer; our staff is not able to provide legal or financial advice.

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### Returning Alumni

27. I was a Dream Summer participant before. Can I apply for Dream Summer 2017?

You can apply if you have been part of the program for only one year. You cannot apply if you have participated in Dream Summer for two years.

### Additional Questions

Application can be found here: [Dream Summer Fellowship](#) (or copy and paste this link in your web browser - <http://bit.ly/DS17Application>)

For questions or concerns, please contact Dream Summer coordinators at the following e-mail address: [2017dreamsummer@gmail.com](mailto:2017dreamsummer@gmail.com)

For current updates please visit: [labor.ucla.edu/what-we-do/dream-resource-center/](http://labor.ucla.edu/what-we-do/dream-resource-center/)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/dreamresourcecenter](https://www.facebook.com/dreamresourcecenter) or follow us on Twitter @Dream\_RC