

Community DREAMer Fund



Today we reach out to you about high school and college Dreamer students in Larimer County, and the uniquely challenging circumstances facing them in the weeks and months ahead due not only to the COVID-19 crisis but also the upcoming Supreme Court decision on the DACA program. The Community DREAMer Fund specifically focuses on providing emergency financial assistance to DACAmented, undocumented, and asylum-seeking students in Larimer County for unexpected expenses that might derail or prevent them from staying in school.

Members of the Community DREAMer Board have heard firsthand how difficult the situation is for Dreamer students. Since these students are not eligible for state and federal assistance, including the CARES Act, many college Dreamers have moved back home with their families. They now feel the enormous responsibility of teaching younger siblings out of school and assisting parents with chores, all while maintaining their studies in a new online environment. For other DACA students, their legal status provides them with the opportunity to maintain or seek employment, becoming the sole breadwinners for their families. Even during this unprecedented crisis, asylum-seeking students must still start an application before their eligibility window expires: an expensive and time-intensive legal process. On the whole, the burdens of family financial instability are felt intensely by high school and college students alike, causing them inconceivable pressure and stress.

Dreamers are also facing the potential termination of the DACA program, which provides 2-year temporary work permits and safety from deportation. The Supreme Court is expected to hand down its decision by the end of June. Two-hundred thousand Dreamers in the United States, including those in our community, are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, working in grocery stores, essential businesses, and health care. Termination of this program would not only leave them vulnerable to job loss and deportation, but the sudden loss of workers will also put our community at risk. We encourage you to watch this amazing undocumentary by Fuerza Latina to learn about the impact that receiving DACA had on Dreamer, Jesus: <https://youtu.be/XVOjtPDemCc>.

The stress and psychological toll facing Dreamers is unimaginable. **Thankfully, students in Larimer County are aware of the Community DREAMer Fund and have been reaching out. In the past few weeks, we received fourteen applications requesting more than \$10,500 in assistance.** We want to be ready to help Dreamers.

How You Can Help

If you are able and would like to support Dreamers during this time, you can [donate here](#) or copy and paste the link www.sojournmennonite.org/give/dreamers/ into your web browser. Any amount is appreciated.

We understand that you too may also be feeling the strains of this crisis and may not be in a position to help financially at this time. **We ask that you help spread the word to others who care about our immigrant community by forwarding them this letter.** In addition to your support, the Community DREAMer Fund has received an emergency grant from the Northern Colorado COVID-19 Response Fund and a SEED Grant from the Mennonite Mountain States Conference. We are also applying for a \$4,500 matching grant from Everence's Sharing Fund, which matches donations made to individuals who are in crisis and facing an emergency.

We hope you are able to join us in keeping Larimer County high school and college Dreamer students in school during this difficult time. We pray that you also are staying safe and healthy.

Blessings,
The Community DREAMer Board

*** The Community Dreamer Fund holds non-profit status as a 501(c)(3) from our DBA, Sojourn Mennonite Church. Donations are tax deductible. For more information contact: pastor@sojournmennonite.org.*