

# CHARTING NEW PATHS: UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR MIGRANT AND UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH

Youth who migrate from their country of origin and youth who are undocumented in the United States are often on the receiving end of deeply complicated debates that have political, economic, and social dimensions. This can lead to viewing youth with experiences of migration through the political lens, rather than as young people who are reaching out for support. This resource focuses on clarifying commonly used terms that come up when we talk about migrant and undocumented youth.

## Migrant

Someone who moves because the student or family is involved in seasonal work.

## Undocumented

The status of a migrant or immigrant without legal documentation.

## SIJ

Special Immigrant Juvenile status helps certain undocumented youth obtain legal immigration status.

## DACA

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA program is a limited executive order deferring action of deportation of undocumented immigrants who arrived as minors. While it does not grant a pathway to legal residence or citizenship, DACA recipients are protected from deportation and granted work authorization in 2-year permits.

## Immigrant

A person who moves to a country and plans to stay permanently.

## Unaccompanied Minor

Youth under the age of 18 who comes to the U.S. without an accompanying parent or guardian. The term “unaccompanied” in this context refers to their immigration status.

## DREAMer/ DREAM Act

The Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act or DREAM Act is not an act since it has never been passed into law. Still, this bill allowed for a conversation centering Dreamers, undocumented children, and youth who have no pathway to legal residence or citizenship.

## Illegal Alien

A term often used by government agencies and political organizations to talk about foreign born people who migrate into the U.S. illegally. A person-first alternative is undocumented immigrant.

## ELL/ELD

English Language Learner/English Language Development, terms often assigned to newcomer students within education and school-based settings.

## Parolees

People who receive temporary legal status to enter the U.S. due to urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit reasons. Typically, they are not eligible for the same kinds of services as a refugee.

## TPS

Temporary Protected Status provides temporary immigration status to individuals living in certain countries facing armed conflict, natural disasters, or other extraordinary conditions.

## Asylees

Refugees who are in the U.S. when going through the initial immigration process.

## Refugees

People who have fled their home country due to fear of persecution and are not in the U.S. while they are going through the initial immigration process.

## LPR

Legal Permanent Resident