



Community Dreamer Fund

Megan Miller, Liz Armas, Amy Hoeven

Who we are...

- The Community Dreamer Fund was established by CSU DACA and undocumented students in partnership with Sojourn Mennonite Church following the 2017 rescission of DACA.
- We provide emergency assistance to undocumented, DACA and asylum-seeking high school and college students in Larimer County. We help students overcome financial obstacles so that they can complete their education and attain their professional goals.
 - Colorado State University, Front Range Community College, Poudre School District and Thompson Valley School District high schools
 - Rent, food, legal fees, DACA renewals, school tuition and exam fees, medical and mental health needs, vehicle repairs, etc.
- We are student-and community-responsive coalition which allows us to quickly identify and respond to emergent needs expressed by students in Larimer County.

Undocumented and DACA Students...

- What is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?
 - Created to protect eligible young adults who were brought to the US as children from deportation and provide them with work authorization for temporary, renewable periods of two years. (\$495 fee for renewing)
- Be prepared for DACA to end. The Fifth Circuit Court in Texas is expected to rule on the future of DACA any day now. Immigration experts believe the case will continue to the Supreme Court and will be struck down.
- What does it mean to be undocumented?
 - Extremely vulnerable group of students
 - No social security number or work authorization
- Many complex reasons why they may not be eligible for documentation
 - New DACA applications are no longer accepted
 - Asylum seekers, new arrivals, can't afford lawyers, etc.
- Perpetuates a "Good" vs "Bad" immigrant narrative that someone did something right and someone did something wrong. Immigration legal systems is a patchwork of complicated laws providing multiple reasons why someone doesn't have documented status.

Lizmiirelly Armas

Bachelors of Science in Business Administration and Marketing
Student, Entrepreneur, Community Member

- Born in Mexico, raised in the Vail Valley
- DACA recipient
- First-generation graduate from Colorado State



Thank you to our Donor:



Why our support is important...

Despite the contentiousness of current immigration politics, every student in the United States is guaranteed a free public education (*Plyler v. Doe*, 1982).

- Many of the undocumented and DACA students in Larimer County were raised in our public education system and recruited by our colleges and universities. The “American Dream” is instilled in them.
- Due to their status, they are not eligible for student loans and traditional types of support offered to other students to help them close the financial gaps between their school commitments and living expenses.
- Students constantly struggle to find affordable housing and often rely on parents and emergency resources like the Community Dreamer Fund to narrow their financial gaps.

Why our support is important...

- Diverse staff prepared to deal with cultural nuances in the workplace. They are “change-ready.”
- Highly educated and trained with many masters and post doctorate degrees. Outperform peers 15% (McKinsey and Company) and are nearly 3% more likely to identifiable as leaders.
- Culturally aware and multilingual staff enables businesses to reach a larger client base. Product or service is more equitably accessible to the public and improves a company reputation.
- Growing a talent pool and having a well-rounded staff improves innovation and creative thinking. Increases happiness and retention especially among Millennials (Deloitte).
- Increases productivity. Ethnically diverse companies outperform competitors by 35% (Deloitte Australia)
- Financial stability is vital in keeping families and communities secure, healthy, and self-sufficient.

Why our support is important...

- These students are poised to offer significant contributions to our economy and communities.
- Degree attainment, whether at the high school or college level, benefits students, their families and their communities because students' earning potential increases with each degree. Financial stability is vital in keeping families and communities secure, healthy, and self-sufficient.
- It is in everyone's best interest to ensure that these students can achieve their educational and professional goals.

When these talented graduates can't find a job, they leave our community.

How we raise funds...

- We conduct community outreach and fundraising events to raise awareness about the experiences of DACA and undocumented students in Larimer County. We've distributed over \$137,000 to 167 applicants.
- We rely on individual donations (62%)
- A third of our funding comes from grants (38%)
- All funds go directly to students. We are entirely volunteer operated.

Community Partnerships

Colorado State University
Church

Front Range Community College
County

Poudre School District

CIRC
Foundation

Alianza NORCO
Foundation

Community Foundation of Northern Colorado

Sojourn Mennonite

United Way of Larimer

ISAAC

Schowalter

Fransen Family

The need among students is growing...

YEAR	TOTAL	RECIPIENTS
2017	\$ 2,380.00	7
2018	\$ 4,755.00	9
2019	\$ 10,980.58	15
2020	\$ 35,593.93	48
2021	\$ 34,073.51	34
2022	\$ 32,595.00	36
2023	\$ 17,011.50	18
Total	\$ 137,389.52	167

Since January, the rate of applications has increased from approximately \$2700 a month to \$4200 a month. Historically, we raised ~\$30,000 annually to fulfill requests. Based on the increase in applications, we need to raise \$45,000 in 2023.

CDF is known and trusted in the community.

Organizations like CSU refer students to us when there is no other place for a student to go for emergency assistance.

Questions and Answers

Learn more at
www.sojournmennonite.org/dreamers

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