

Immigration:

Apply for free legal aid online at MontanaLawHelp.org or call/text Kaia, YHDP Coordinator, at (406) 594-1971



What challenges do immigrant youth face?

- Fear, anxiety, and constant stigmatization
- Language and cultural barriers
- Poverty, segregation, or constant relocation
- Social and emotional learning differences
- Lack of support systems (family, friends, community)
- Trouble gaining access to an equitable education

Everyone, no matter their immigration status, has an equal right to attend public school. Know that you are not alone in experiencing any of these challenges. United We Dream is an organization that may be able to provide support. Go to: unitedwedream.org

Can I apply for asylum if I am afraid for my safety in my home country?

Asylum is a form of protection the U.S. government offers that allows a person to live and work legally in the U.S. and to apply for lawful permanent residence after one year. You may apply for asylum in the United States if you have been “persecuted” (very seriously harmed or threatened) in your home country because of your race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

What is the VAWA Self-Petitioner Program?

Under the federal Violence Against Women Act, anyone (of any gender) may be eligible for a Green Card if they are a victim of battery or extreme cruelty by a close relative who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. Contact an attorney if someone is abusing you.

What is DACA?

DACA stands for *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*. The purpose of DACA is to protect eligible immigrants from deportation who came to the United States when they were children. DACA gives young undocumented immigrants: 1) protection from deportation and 2) a work permit. If you receive DACA, it lasts for two years, subject to renewal.

What is Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status?

If you are under the age of 21 and need the protection of a juvenile court because you have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, you may be eligible for SIJ. If SIJ classification is granted, you may qualify for lawful permanent residency (getting a Green Card).

Please contact MLSA for additional information and assistance.

Read [*Living in the United States: A Guide for Immigrant Youth*](#) from Immigrant Legal Resource Center

What do I need to know about immigration?

There are many different ways people come to live and work in the United States. Based on your situation, the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services office may give you documents showing your immigration status. The most common types of documents are a certificate of citizenship, a green card, a work permit, a visa, or a stamp on your passport.

Each type of permission has different rules. If you do not have or do not know your immigration status, you should speak with a lawyer to discuss options. More information from [Immigrant Legal Resources Center](#)

How can MLSA help me?

MLSA provides FREE legal information, forms, advice, and representation to eligible clients.

MLSA's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) Coordinator can provide you with referrals to agencies in your community and link you with free civil legal assistance.

Have more questions about your legal rights? Visit: MontanaLawHelp.org

