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## NEW YORK STATE DREAM FACT SHEET

2/14/12

### Why do we need to pass DREAM legislation in New York State?

Each year, thousands of undocumented youth in New York graduate from high school with little hope to pursue their dreams because they are ineligible for financial aid to attend college and because they are forced to live in the shadows without a path to legal status. The federal *Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act*, first introduced in 2001, would provide a path to citizenship for young people who meet eligibility requirements such as attending college and performing military service. Unfortunately, the bill has been caught in Congressional gridlock for over a decade, and it is unlikely to pass. With Federal DREAM legislation stalled, New York must take action.

### Have Other States Passed DREAM Bills?

YES! States have already shown leadership by passing legislation to support DREAMers who have been left in limbo by Washington. Twelve states nationwide, including New York, have already implemented in-state tuition bills that allow DREAMers to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities. Furthermore, California, Texas, Illinois and New Mexico have passed legislation to extend public and private financial assistance to DREAMers to help them pay for college. New York introduced its first DREAM Act last year.

### How will New York State DREAM Legislation help DREAMers?

There are three different provisions currently introduced that will offer DREAMers access to financial support from public and private sources:

- **PUBLIC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** The New York State DREAM Act (S4179/A6829) introduced last year by Assemblymember Guillermo Linares and Senator Bill Perkins would allow undocumented students to apply for state financial aid that is currently available to other students, such as the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and other scholarships/grants. California, Texas and New Mexico have passed similar bills.
- **PRIVATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**
  - DREAM FUND: Legislation introduced by Assemblymember Francisco Moya would establish a private commission that would raise funds for scholarships for children of immigrants, both undocumented and with status. This bill requires no public monies, and students would have to apply for the fund. California and Illinois have passed legislation to create such commissions.
  - 529 PRIVATE COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.

### Who will be eligible for New York DREAM legislation?

The DREAM Fund will be open to children of immigrants, regardless of immigration status, and the 529 bill will be open to all students who can provide an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. To be eligible for NYS DREAM Act, which offers public tuition assistance, students must:

1. Have graduated from a New York high school with a high school diploma or its equivalent, including, but not limited to a GED;
2. Have entered the United States undocumented before the age of 18;
3. Be under the age of 35; and
4. Not have been convicted in this state or any other state or territory of a violent felony.

### How can I get involved to help pass DREAM in New York State?

There are many ways to get involved! You can begin by signing the petition! You can also join the New State DREAM Coalition. Find us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/NYSDDREAM>. If you have any questions about this legislation or want to get involved, please contact Jackie Vimo, Director of Advocacy at the New York Immigration Coalition: [jvimo@thenyic.org](mailto:jvimo@thenyic.org) (212) 627.2227x248