HOUSTON ENDOWMENT
A Philanthropy Endowed by Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones

THE simmons FOUNDATION

On June 23, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court split 4-4 on Texas v. United States, upholding the existing injunction delaying any implementation of expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). This decision means that the lawsuit filed by the State of Texas and joined by 26 other states against the President's administrative action will continue through the merits phase of the case. The Supreme Court did not rule on the merits of expanded DACA or DAPA, leaving open the possibility of another appeal after the case in Brownsville concludes. The Court's decision does not affect the existing DACA program, which has been in place since 2012.

The court's decision leaves immigrants like Jessica, a 17-year-old high school student, in limbo with her future uncertain. Under expanded DACA, she would have been eligible for a provisional work authorization. Until a final ruling is reached, she and her parents, will continue to live in fear of deportation and family separation, and her dreams will remain unrealized. In light of the Supreme Court's decision, we believe that funding immigration services continues to be vital to help ensure immigrants are able to take advantage of the legal protections to which they are entitled, and avoid being exploited or defrauded. Over the past two years, the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative has been successful in creating a coordinated network of services to help immigrants navigate complicated systems, avoid fraud and make choices in their own best interests. As funding partners in the collaborative, we support their message:

- Even without DAPA and the expanded DACA program available right now, many people may qualify for some other form of immigration relief, including DACA 2012.
- A great deal of misinformation exists about deferred action programs. Unscrupulous individuals, often called "*notarios*," take advantage of immigrants, scamming them out of money and often putting their ability to obtain legal status in jeopardy forever. Fraud prevention is critical.

This is a critical opportunity for philanthropy to reaffirm the value and contributions of immigrants—and support organizations that provide vital services to children and families in need and ensure that they are not exploited or defrauded. The Court's vote does not affect the original DACA program, which to date has benefited nearly 730,000 individuals and their families. Philanthropy can support efforts to encourage hundreds of thousands of DACA-eligible immigrants to come forward, including those aging into eligibility and those who could qualify once they meet the program's educational requirements.

Philanthropy, as well as stakeholders in the public and private sectors, must also look to the longer-term challenge of reforming our nation's immigration system. Philanthropy can invest in programs that facilitate immigrants' social, economic and civic integration. Only by addressing both the immediate needs and the long-term challenges for immigrants will we ensure the future vitality and prosperity of our diverse communities.

Both The Simmons Foundation and Houston Endowment remain committed to funding collaborative work, such as The Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative, and their nonprofit partners. We hope you will join us.