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Financial Moves DREAMers Should Make Right Now

1 Take stock of your finances

- Don't abandon your debt — failure to repay can make re-entry to the country more difficult
- Collect all personal/financial information
 - Debts
 - Assets
 - Identification
 - Includes individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), city identification card
- Identify and prioritize monthly expenses
 - Includes food, transportation, electricity, and any other expenses necessary for day-to-day living
- Gather as much information you can about a possible living situation in your birth country.
 - This includes:
 - Address
 - A phone number/email
 - Any potential financial institutions you may work with
- Notify current banks, credit card issuers, and lenders you may be out of the country to prevent future fraud alerts

2 Keep your bank accounts open if possible — and have a plan

- Things to research if you can keep your bank account open:
 - Any international banking partnerships of your current bank
 - Foreign transaction fee/exchange rate between the U.S. and your birth country
 - International ATM availability and ATM fees of your current bank
 - International branch availability of your current bank
 - Your current bank's policies on account inactivity
- Things to do if you have to close your bank account:
 - Research your current bank's policies on money transfers
 - Decide on a bank in your birth country
 - Inform current bank of intention to close/transfer funds, and follow all instructions

3 Evaluate your loans

- Identify loans you can pay off quickly — and make extra payments if possible
 - Things to consider:
 - APR
 - Repayment term
 - Collateral (if applicable)
 - Co-signers (if applicable)
- Continue to make at least minimum payments to all other loans
- If necessary, contact your lenders and work out a payment plan
- For students considering financial aid:
 - Examine state/college-based aid options
 - Discuss options with family members, friends, or other trusted persons

4 Minimize credit card debt

- Determine which credit cards you can use internationally
- Research the following information for each card:
 - ATM availability
 - International merchant acceptance
 - Foreign transaction fees
 - Online card management options
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- Prioritize canceling/paying off cards by remaining debt
 - Consider a balance transfer credit card — and pay off your balance during the 0% intro APR period

5 Find someone you can trust

- Identify a trusted person to act as your representative inside the U.S.
 - This person must be a U.S. citizen in order to act as your representative
- Consider creating a joint bank account with a trusted individual
- Research and discuss any power of attorney options with a trusted individual

Resources:

[Thedream.us](#) — Everything a DREAMer needs to know about scholarships, along with legal and educational resources

[Golden Door Scholarships](#) — Dedicated to providing scholarships to DACA students and scholarships to undocumented students

[Immigration Advocates Network](#) — A nonprofit immigrant resources center with a state-by-state directory for immigration legal service providers.

[Appleseed](#) — An equality-first advocacy center with multiple resources for immigrants, including "Protecting Assets and Child Custody in the Face of Deportation"

[Informed Immigrant](#) — An immigrant advocacy center offering comprehensive resources on immigrant rights and DACA.