



Refill the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) to Help Protect 16 Million American Jobs

Fifteen Months of Lost Revenue and Mounting Debt Leaves Uncertain Future For 500,000 Independent Restaurants and Bars

Independent Restaurants and Bars Eligible for At Least \$168 Billion in Relief; Only \$28.6 Billion Appropriated to Date

Independent restaurants and bars accumulated 16 months of losses and need relief to pay down their debts. They will not be “back to normal” anytime soon.

- **The COVID-19 pandemic has cost restaurants and bars over \$280 billion in sales.**¹
- **One point of sale application estimates that restaurants and bars are eligible for at least \$168 billion in RRF grants.**
- **Costs necessary for running a restaurant are rising.** The price of beef and veal (10.5%), grains (25.7%), and cooking oils (9.3%) all increased between April and May of 2021.²
- **36% of diners will not resume their regular dining behavior until at least after September 2021.**³ Consumer hesitancy will continue to hamper restaurants' and bars' revenue generating abilities.
- **State specific dining restrictions exist in 7 states** across the country as of the end of May and continue to inhibit the amount of customers a business can serve.⁴
- After accumulating 16 months of debt, restaurants and bars cannot simply fix their balance sheets with a few weeks of near-capacity business operations afforded by loosened restrictions and summer outdoor dining. **Approximately 90,000 restaurants and bars have closed during the pandemic.**⁵

Refilling the RRF is a long term plan to return to full employment and growth.

- **Restaurant and bar employment is down 1.46 million from its pre-pandemic levels, stopping a decade of rapid job growth:** employment for restaurants and bars increased over 33% in the last decade. The third fastest growth of any industry.⁶ Restaurants and bars account for one in five jobs lost during the pandemic.⁷

¹ [US Census.](#)

² [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Producer Price Index](#), May 2021.

³ [OpenTable Diner Q1 Insights.](#)

⁴ [OpenTable](#), June 25.

⁵ [National Restaurant Association.](#)

⁶ [Bureau of Labor Statistics, B - Tables, Food Service and Drinking Places; Independent Restaurants are a Nexus of Small Business in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity that is at risk of Being lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), 18.

⁷ [Bureau of Labor Statistics, B - Tables.](#)



- **Until the pandemic, restaurants added middle class jobs at a rate over three times faster than the rest of the economy.**⁸
- 60% of all chefs are minorities. Restaurants also employ more minority employee-managers than any other industry.⁹ **Failing to provide support for this beleaguered industry will cause an employment crisis disproportionately affecting women, people of color, immigrants, young people, the formerly incarcerated and single mothers.**
- Restaurants are uniquely hurting – providing relief to America’s restaurants and bars will allow these businesses to pay down debt and keep their doors open, protecting the 11 million workers they employ nationwide and the more than 5 million others who work in the industry’s vast supply chain.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund provides restaurants and bars with the grant relief they need to keep their doors open.

- The RRF is modeled after the \$120 billion RESTAURANTS Act, which independent restaurant and bar operators from the IRC specifically designed so their industry could access the relief they need.
- The RRF provides debt-free support in the amount of annual revenue lost from 2019 and 2020, with special provisions for businesses that opened in 2020 and 2019. Grants can only be used on eligible expenses: payroll, rent, mortgage, maintenance, outdoor seating constructions, supplies, protective equipment, food, beverage, operational expenses, and principal business payments for business debt.
- The RRF has a track record of success: within the first three weeks of opening the application portal, over 372,000 restaurants, bars, and other eligible businesses have applied, requesting over \$76 billion in funds.¹⁰
- Businesses unable to access other federal relief programs, like PPP, applied in droves: over half of applicants came from women (over 122,000 applications), Veterans (over 14,000 applications), and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses (over 71,000 applications).¹¹
- This relief fund allows struggling small businesses a chance to survive the pandemic and caters to vulnerable businesses: grants cannot exceed \$10,000,000 per restaurant group (which cannot have more than 20 entities) and \$5,000,000 per business.

⁸ [National Restaurant Association](#).

⁹ [Independent Restaurants are a Nexus of Small Business in the United States and Drive Billions of Dollars of Economic Activity that is at risk of Being lost Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), 9; *ibid*.

¹⁰ [House Small Business Committee](#), An Examination of the SBA’s COVID-19 Programs, Isabella Casillas Guzman.

¹¹ [Small Business Administration](#), please note this data came from May 18, when 303,000 applications had been submitted. While the administrator disclosed an updated application amount during a May 26 House Small Business Committee Testimony, the SBA has not released a more specific breakdown.