



COLORADO
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November 18, 2020

To Colorado Municipalities and Counties:

We are reaching out to you to open a dialogue about potential local solutions that will allow you to allocate CARES Act dollars to help local restaurants survive in your community

Restaurants are the fabric and culture of our great state! But due to the impacts of COVID-19, many are struggling to survive. Restaurants are adhering to very limited indoor dining capacities due to COVID-19 regulations, and many local governments across the state have restricted hours for alcohol sales and Last Call times. While dining rules have changed due to the pandemic, the cost of doing business has not. Many of our favorite eating and drinking establishments will not make it through the fall and winter if we do not help them increase their overall capacity, which directly impacts the economic health of your community.

Governor Jared Polis's Office, The Colorado Restaurant Association, and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs have been collaborating to provide funding options for you and your local restaurants and we want to make sure you know about options that we'd like you to consider:

1. The Colorado Restaurant Foundation has partnered with the State of Colorado on a Winter Outdoor Dining Grant Program. Private funds are being raised to distribute grants to eligible restaurants towards designing and building their outdoor winter dining spaces. Funds can be used toward design, construction, applicable fees and supplies (ex: permit fees, tents, heaters). Grants will be distributed through the Colorado Restaurant Foundation (CRF). The CRF is a 501c3 non-profit (Tax ID: 74-2488379) that serves as the philanthropic arm of the Colorado Restaurant Association.

We all can leverage these private dollars. If you have available CARES funding, cities and counties can also participate in this program by distributing your funds from the DOLA Coronavirus Relief Fund (CVRF) program to the CRF and a restricted fund will be set up for the restaurants in your area. The CRF can also add one or more people of your choosing from your jurisdiction to assist in final application review prior to awarding individual grants. Per Federal Treasury guidance, many temporary expenses necessary to respond to and mitigate impacts from COVID-19, though the CARES funding have been and will be eligible. For example, temporary activities such as tents, thermometers, sanitizers, heaters, and minor construction to ensure appropriate social distancing are eligible. Also revenue loss for businesses is acceptable which allows for more flexibility. Please contact your regional manager at DOLA (<https://cdola.colorado.gov/regional-managers>) to clarify a proposed expense. Aligned

with the CARES funding deadlines, the CRF is set up to distribute and restaurants will fully expend funds by the end of 2020.

2. If you already have a small business or hospitality industry fund set aside to award grants directly to these effected businesses, the Colorado Restaurant Foundation is willing and able to partner to provide the grant applications received through the Winter Outdoor Dining Program for restaurants located in your city or county. You could then quickly distribute grants directly to those businesses impacted. If you need support to quickly set up and manage a restaurant or business recovery program, please contact your DOLA Regional Manager (<https://cdola.colorado.gov/regional-managers>) immediately. There are already very successful, simple business recovery programs running, and we can help you do the same.

3. DOLA has also committed \$100,000 from the Rural Economic Development Initiative program for this purpose, which dollars are less restrictive than the CARES Act Funds and can be used into 2021 to augment your current restaurant programs. Please contact Kate Guibert - kate.guibert@state.co.us for more information.

4. Lastly, the Colorado Restaurant Association Winter Outdoor Dining Program is housing a list of all grant programs they are aware of that restaurants could qualify for on their website at www.cooutdoordining.org If you have your own program that you'd like to share to be listed on this site, the CRF will happily list your program.

For more information or to partner on any of these programs, please contact Sonia Riggs at the Colorado Restaurant Association/Colorado Restaurant Foundation.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,



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