



## **New York Restaurant Industry Financial Security in Danger of Being Wiped Out by Delta Variant**

*Nearly \$6 billion in unfunded New York State Restaurant Revitalization Fund applications leave local small business owners in limbo*

**Washington, D.C.** (Aug. 24, 2021) – Today, the New York State Restaurant Association, the National Restaurant Association, and 50 other state restaurant association partners sent a letter to Congressional leadership highlighting our concerns with [new national consumer confidence survey findings](#) and urging swift replenishment of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF). New York State has nearly 18,000 pending applications, the second highest number nationally, totaling almost \$6 billion in stabilization funding that would be addressed by the \$60 billion proposed replenishment bills.

The letter urges Congress to complete the mission of the RRF and provide adequate funds to replenish the program and offer relief for the applications still pending.

“New York State has the nation’s second highest number of restaurants in limbo, waiting to find out if Congress will act to provide the stability they need to make it through this new pandemic threat and into the future,” said Melissa Fleischut, CEO of the New York State Restaurant Association. “The rise of coronavirus variants, and the mandates that often follow, threaten to push these restaurants closer to permanently closing their doors. It’s time for Congress to step in and fulfill the promise of the RRF.”

The National Restaurant Association survey found that nationally a majority of consumers have already changed their dining behavior which is beginning to put acute pressure back on the restaurant industry. This faltering consumer confidence comes on top of restaurant labor costs at a 10-year high, increased food and supply prices, continued indoor capacity limits in 11 states, and crushing long-term debt loads for countless restaurant owners.

Specifically, the survey found:

- 6 in 10 adults changed their restaurant use due to the rise in the delta variant.
- 19% of adults have stopped going out to restaurants,
- 9% have cancelled existing plans to go out to a restaurant in recent weeks.
- 37% have ordered takeout or delivery instead of going out to a restaurant,
- 19% have chosen to sit outside instead of inside when going out to a restaurant.

“For an industry that requires a ‘full house’ every evening to make a profit, this is a dangerous trend,” said Sean Kennedy, executive vice president of Public Affairs for the National Restaurant Association. “These changes indicate declining consumer confidence that will make it more difficult for most restaurant owners to maintain their delicate financial stability.”

Read the full letter [here](#).

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