

Applications Now Accepted for James Beard Foundation Food and Beverage Industry Relief Fund

Fund will provide critical financial assistance to independent bars and restaurants impacted by COVID-19 pandemic

NEW YORK, 3/30/20 – Independent operators of bars and restaurants across the country, faced with closure and crippling financial losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, are encouraged to apply for a grant from the James Beard Foundation’s Food and Beverage Industry Relief Fund. Applications are now being accepted by visiting jamesbeard.org/relief-fund-application.

The fund launched with generous founding support from S.Pellegrino Sparkling Natural Mineral Water and PATRON tequila. Additional contributors include Argyle Winery, Oatly, True Refrigeration, White Claw® Hard Seltzer and more than 300 individual donors.

The fund has been created in response to the dire situation the food and beverage community continues to face under current circumstances across the United States. Thanks to its corporate and individual donors, the fund has been designed to enable critical financial assistance to small, independent restaurants that have an immediate need for resources for operating expenses in order to prevent permanent closure.

“These small businesses are essential to our economy and way of life,” said Clare Reichenbach, chief executive officer of the James Beard Foundation. “They’re woven into the social and cultural fabric of our country, and we hope this fund will help bring some of them swift economic relief and assistance during this extremely challenging time.”

Restaurants, bars and other independent food and beverage operations contribute \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy, or roughly 4% of GDP. The industry employs nearly 16% of the American workforce. These small businesses support local economies and pump as much as 60% of earned revenue back into their local communities. They pay taxes, support municipal utilities and bring jobs to underserved neighborhoods.

The application period for the James Beard Foundation Food and Beverage Relief Fund begins today and closes at 3 P.M. Eastern Time (ET) on April 3, 2020. All donations will be divided evenly across the 12 regions defined for the James Beard Awards. Completed applications in each region will be reviewed on a rolling, first-come, first-serve basis. Each approved applicant will receive a \$15,000 grant. The first of these payments is expected to be distributed the week of March 29, 2020. The James Beard Foundation will continue to process applications until the fund is fully dispersed. As additional funds are raised, we will allocate them across the 12 regions and the Foundation will process previously received, but unfunded, applications before reopening the process for new applications.

Regions are defined as:

1. New York State
2. Northeast (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)
3. Mid-Atlantic (DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA)
4. Southeast (GA, KY, NC, SC, TN, WV)
5. South (AL, AR, FL, LA, MS, PR)
6. Great Lakes (IL, IN, MI, OH)
7. Midwest (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI)
8. Mountain (CO, ID, MT, UT, WY)

9. Southwest (AZ, NM, NV, OK)
10. Northwest & Pacific (AK, HI, OR, WA)
11. California
12. Texas

The James Beard Foundation Food and Beverage Industry Relief Fund Leadership Committee:

While developing the Relief Fund, the James Beard Foundation collaborated with the following chefs and industry leaders to execute effective design and implementation of the Fund. Each committee member has pledged to help promote the Fund through their social media channels, and support fundraising efforts to generate additional dollars.

- Elizabeth Falkner
- Carla Hall
- Peter Hoffman
- Padma Lakshmi
- Emily Luchetti
- Marc Murphy (and Emily Karpin)
- Damaris Phillips
- Sherry Yard
- Andrew Zimmern

The James Beard Foundation Food and Beverage Industry Relief Fund is administered by the New Venture Fund with technical assistance from the James Beard Foundation.

About the James Beard Foundation:

The James Beard Foundation's mission is to promote Good Food for Good™. For more than 30 years, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization has highlighted the centrality of food culture in our daily lives. Through the James Beard Awards, unique dining experiences at the James Beard House and around the country, scholarships, hands-on learning, and a variety of industry programs that educate and empower leaders in our community, the Foundation has built a platform for chefs and asserted the power of gastronomy to drive behavior, culture, and policy change around food. To that end, the Foundation has also created signature impact-oriented initiatives that include our Women's Leadership Programs, aimed at addressing the gender imbalance in the culinary industry; advocacy training through our Chefs Boot Camp for Policy and Change; and the James Beard Foundation Leadership Awards, which shine a spotlight on successful change makers. The organization is committed to giving chefs and their colleagues a voice and the tools they need to make the world more sustainable, equitable, and delicious for everyone. For more information, please visit jamesbeard.org and follow @beardfoundation on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/beardfoundation), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/beardfoundation), and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/beardfoundation). For more information about the James Beard Foundation Food and Beverage Relief Fund visit jamesbeard.org/relief.

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