



# **MISSOURI** Restaurant News

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June 23, 2021

## Let Congress Know: We Need to Replenish the RRF

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund has been an incredibly effective recovery tool for the restaurant industry, but for too many owners, the \$28.6 billion in funding won't last long enough for their application to be approved. Last week, Congress unveiled the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act of 2021 to provide \$60 billion in additional funding for the RRF.

According to the Small Business Administration, more than 362,000 applications asking for a total of \$75 billion in funding were received in the weeks the application portal was open in May. The average grant application was for just over \$200,000. [Join our grassroots campaign](#) to let Congress know we need the funds to be replenished to help more restaurants recover and get back to business.

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## **MISSOURI** Restaurant Association

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
United States Senate

Dear Senator Blunt:

I write to encourage you to cosponsor the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act introduced by Senators Sinema and Wicker. This legislation is critical for the restaurant industry in Missouri and America.

The Act will allow restaurants devastated by the pandemic, and which applied for an RRF grant, to receive this much needed assistance. Otherwise, their applications will likely be denied due to insufficient initial funding of the program.

Restaurants lost more jobs than any other industry during COVID-19. Industry employment remains 1.5 million jobs below pre-pandemic employment levels.

Although the overall economy continues to strengthen, restaurant recovery is far from certain. In April, consumer spending in restaurants lagged \$1.4 billion below pre-pandemic levels. Many of the nation's restaurants are well below normal staffing patterns and a return to profitable operations is uncertain by the end of 2021.

Passage of this legislation is vital not only for restaurants, but also for ranchers, growers, food distributors, suppliers, and others in the restaurant supply chain.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your past support of our industry.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Bonney, CEO  
Missouri Restaurant Association

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## Potential Replenishment of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) was adopted by Congress in April 2021 to provide financial relief for eligible restaurants and related food and beverage service businesses. Originally, \$28.6 billion of tax-free federal grants were approved for restaurants, food stands, food trucks, food carts, caterers, saloons, inns, taverns, bars, lounges, bakeries, brewpubs and others if their revenue in 2020 was less than their revenue in 2019. The Small Business Administration (SBA) began to accept applications in May 2021 and is now administering the RRF.

The RRF operated on a first-come, first-served basis and the \$28.6 billion was depleted quickly. During the first 21 days of the program, priority was given to eligible small businesses owned and controlled by women, small businesses owned and controlled by veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses.

Following the 21-day period, all eligible applicants could apply, including franchisees of franchise systems with more than 20 units if their franchisors were currently listed on the SBA Franchise Directory. However, approximately 147,000 applicants from the priority group applied for more than the initial \$28.6 billion in the RRF.

According to the SBA, more than 362,000 applications seeking a total of \$75 billion in funding were received in the three-week period after the RRF applications were accepted for filing. The average grant application was for just over \$200,000.

The Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act of 2021 (RRFRA) was proposed on June 10 by a bipartisan group of lawmakers in the House and Senate to provide an additional \$60 billion for the RRF. According to the SBA, restaurant operators that did not get grants the first time around will automatically be eligible for the new funds if they have an application and the necessary documentation on file.

If the RRFRA becomes law, grants will be available if the applicants' gross revenue in 2020 was less than gross revenue in 2019.

For businesses not in operation for all of 2019, the maximum grant will be the annualized average monthly gross revenue for 2019 less the annual gross revenue in 2020. Businesses not in operation for all of 2020 could potentially receive a grant equal to the amount of eligible expenses invested in the business to date.

Grants cannot exceed \$10 million per entity or \$5 million per location and will be reduced by amounts previously received under the Paycheck Protection Program. Even with another \$60 billion, it is likely that the funds will be depleted quickly. Consequently, eligible business owners should apply as soon as possible if the RRFRA becomes law.

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## Personalized health insurance for hospitality workers

The Missouri Restaurant Association is pleased to offer hospitality workers access to a variety of health insurance solutions for individuals & families.

Licensed insurance agents are standing by ready to walk you through your insurance choices. They can help you find the right plan at the right price that's the

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