**J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program Reduction**

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

This fact sheet refers to findings from a survey conducted by the Alliance for International Exchange from August 4 to August 18, 2020. Included are responses from 659 seasonal businesses and camps nationwide.

### SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>% Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>108,303</td>
<td>4,885</td>
<td>95% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>2,018</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>94% ↓</td>
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*Provided by the U.S. Department of State. Region specific 2020 figures refer to On Program SWT Exchange Visitors as of August 3rd, 2020 SEVIS report.

### NATIONWIDE IMPACT ON SEASONAL BUSINESSES

- **93%** Cannot meet peak staffing needs without J-1 Exchange Visitors
- **87%** Reported lower quality of customer service or longer customer wait times
- **2 in 3** Lost revenue
- **1 in 7** Laid off, furloughed or reduced wages of full time Americans
- **Half** Shortened their season or hours
- **1 in 5** Could not open this summer

Across the country, 278 businesses reported an average loss of

**$471,359**

in Summer 2020
What business owners in Tennessee and across America are saying:

Quotes were provided by seasonal businesses who completed the economic impact survey conducted by the Alliance for International Exchange from August 4 to August 18, 2020.

“Without exchange students next summer, I'll go out of business.”

“We reduced our hours by 15% due to staffing shortages which American workers could not meet. This will increase as American students return to school at a time when J1 students could have continued to provide support.”

“We had to delay opening one of our hotels for three weeks due to no staff. Major overtime to the few employees we have. Lower morale, which worsens customer service.”

“Millions in lost revenue due to severe staffing shortages with consistent demand. Local workforce overwhelmed and exhausted.”

“We lost about 40% of our income due to not enough workers.”

“We have reduced our hours open by 50%. We limit the amount of customers we let in the door because we don’t have the staff to keep up. This means fewer dollars in income. We are in a seasonal area, which means if we don’t set aside money for the rest of the year during our short summer season we don’t have enough funds to carry us through the rest of the year, which will impact our year ‘round American workers.”

“The few employees we do have worked non stop all summer, some without days off.”

“Guests want discounts and money back because we can’t maintain standards.”

“Due to staffing shortage I was only able to be open 50% of my normal business hours.”

“Cancelled season.”

“Cancelled season.”

“I have pursued every avenue to hire more Americans, including a large number of part time employees. The lack of J-1s has put an extreme negative financial impact on my business. Not to mention the stress and negative impact on my health and employees’ health working this under staffed. I can’t imagine trying to run my restaurant without J-1’s during a regular summer season. The financial hit I would take could quite possibly put me out of business after surviving Covid.”