

Resources for Laid-off Restaurant Workers

By Andrea Strong Updated March 16, 2020

<https://www.foodandwine.com/fwpro/as-the-coronavirus-shutters-restaurants-across-the-country-a-swell-of-support-rises-up>

One Fair Wage Offers Cash Assistance

On Monday, March 16, One Fair Wage launched an emergency fund to support tipped workers and service workers affected by the coronavirus and the economic downturn. The organization is raising funds to provide free [emergency cash assistance](#) to restaurant workers, delivery drivers, and other tipped and service workers impacted by the crisis.

The organization hopes to be able to give each worker \$213, an amount that nods to \$2.13, the federal minimum wage for tipped workers. The organization is also calling on Americans to demand the federal government and every state end the sub-minimum wage and adopt One Fair Wage—not just in this crisis, but permanently.

Eligible workers will be screened in phone interviews with One Fair Wage staff, and any additional unused funds will be spent on tipped-worker organizing and advocacy. The One Fair Wage campaign is a fiscally sponsored project of the Seattle-based Alliance for a Just Society, which is administering the tax-deductible 501(c)3 donations.

The Restaurant Workers' Community Foundation

[The Restaurant Worker's Community Foundation](#) has formed a [COVID-19 Crisis Relief Fund](#) for restaurant workers. The organization will focus on supporting “an industry in crisis,” including both workers and small-business owners. The Fund will provide aid by direct money to those organizations that are doing on-the-ground work, use its impact investing budget to provide zero-interest loans so restaurants can maintain payroll or reopen, and provide relief for individuals facing economic hardship or a health crisis due to coronavirus. The RWCF is also creating a [list of resources](#) related to the coronavirus crisis and plans to collect data from workers and restaurant owners who have been affected.

Bartender Relief

The USBG National Charity Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing the stability and wellbeing of service industry professionals through education and charity, has launched a [Bartender Emergency Assistance Program](#) available to any bartender or the spouse or child of a bartender. Applications are being taken now.

Next Gen Chef

[Next Gen Chef](#), a San Francisco-based culinary platform that allows Foodpreneurs to connect with advisors, is providing free access to its community so people can connect, collaborate and innovate. “We’re hoping that by providing access to our community, food entrepreneurs will access mentors, resources and community members to support each other in this time of uncertainty,” said Justine Reichman, Founder and CEO, who adds that they will also be launching online classes for everyone, forums and will continue offering virtual mentor office hours.