### 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, 32 in Colorado.

### **SUMMER WORK TRAVEL PARTICIPANTS\***

	2019	2020	
United States	108,303	4,885	95% ↓
Colorado	6,855	54	99% ↓

<sup>\*</sup>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



Cannot meet peak staffing needs without J-1 Exchange Visitors



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

In Colorado, 18 businesses reported an average loss of

\$158,334

in Summer 2020



## What business owners in Colorado 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.

# "50% revenue lost."

"I am running at least half staff at breakfast and lunch which has made me go to shorter hours and close one day per week."

"Struggling to have enough employees to handle the business demands."

"We were forced to close one day per week because we could not staff our business and our people are exhausted."

"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 Summer Work Travel students could have continued to provide support."

## "Can not open. I have zero staff!"

"Customers are choosing to shop elsewhere or are picking up products from online options because we can not handle the workload." "We need the Summer Work Travel program to run our business to maximum potential in the high season. If we can not maximize revenue in the high season, it is impossible to make it through the low season."

