

IAAPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

IAAPA North America Launches Nationwide "Support Hometown Attractions" Campaign

Today, IAAPA North America launched a nationwide campaign entitled [Support Hometown Attractions](#). The purpose of the campaign is to provide the Support Hometown Attractions Coalition a platform from which to urge Congress to expand Restaurant Relief Fund grant eligibility and maintain the Employee Retention Tax Credit through 2021, as originally guaranteed by the CARES Act.

The coalition is comprised of owners and operators of smaller - and often independent - attractions, parks, and entertainment venues left out of earlier federal COVID relief grant opportunities.

Why IAAPA North America Supports Coalition Efforts

IAAPA North America represents many diverse and dynamic segments of the attractions industry that, above and beyond the shared goal of ensuring consumer safety, have different legislative needs and objectives. The era of COVID has made these differences more pronounced.

For example, some members are focused on maintaining open borders and expediting visa processing to foster increased international travel and reinforce our nation's workforce. Some are focused on overcoming local workforce challenges and minimizing the impact of inflation. And some are simply trying to make next week's payroll and pay their property taxes.

For those struggling with the latter, as I write this, Congress is considering supplementing the Restaurant Relief Fund. It's our position that members that needed assistance the most in the wake of government mandated shutdowns - but were unable to benefit from grant programs such as the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) and Restaurant Relief Fund (RRF) - should be included in any new legislation that seeks to supplement the Restaurant Relief Fund. Unlike restaurants, consumers can't order your products via take-out or delivery. The federal government shouldn't pick winners and losers. For these reasons, IAAPA North America - working in conjunction with its state and regional attractions association partners - backs the Support Hometown Attractions Coalition.

In addition to advancing the coalition's goals, we are working on a number of other federal and state legislative and regulatory matters on behalf of all members such as maintaining open borders and expediting visa processing to foster increased international travel and reinforce our nation's workforce, supporting beneficial federal workforce development proposals such as H-2B and J-1, submitting comments in response to proposed OSHA Heat Illness Prevention rule-making, supporting the use of Federal Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and stopping or mitigating the impact of onerous federal and state proposals involving myriad labor policies.

Whatever your legislative needs, IAAPA North America is here to serve you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Stephenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith A. Stephenson
Director of Public Affairs
North America