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Colorado Restaurant Foundation Angel Relief Fund Expands to Cover Mental Health Care

Restaurant and hospitality industry employees can apply for grants of up to \$1,000 to cover the cost of mental health treatment.

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Denver, CO – May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the **Colorado Restaurant Foundation (CRF)** is thrilled to announce a newly expanded scope for its **Angel Relief Fund**, which has been providing emergency grants since 2019 to Colorado restaurant workers experiencing hardship. The expansion of the program will allow industry employees to apply for grants of up to \$1,000 for mental health care, which will be paid directly to their mental health-care provider.

Once approved, applicants and their providers can submit invoices to the CRF for reimbursement. All information will be kept confidential, and invoices may be redacted; the CRF will not ask for diagnosis information to protect the privacy of grant recipients.

The CRF is kicking off this grant program by partnering with two providers -- **Khesed Wellness** and **Teladoc** -- to make it easy for applicants to find the counseling they need; applicants can also choose a different provider, as long as certain criteria are met. Those criteria are listed on the [Angel Relief Fund Mental Health Care Grant Application](#).

Khesed Wellness (khesedwellness.com) specializes in providing affordable outpatient mental health and wellness services, with a particular focus on serving restaurant industry employees. Teladoc (teladoc.com) provides virtual health care services via phone and video conferencing.

“The restaurant industry offers rewarding careers in a supportive environment, but like nearly every industry during the pandemic, employees have suffered from additional stress and difficulty,” says CRF president Laura Shunk. “We want to recognize the pandemic-related toll on the mental wellbeing of people working on the front lines at restaurants and other hospitality jobs by providing relief funds for much-needed professional services.”

In addition to the expansion of the Angel Relief Fund, the CRF has also rolled out a new Health & Wellness Resource Center (<https://corerestaurant.org/foundation/health-wellness>) to provide industry employees ongoing support. The Resource Center not only compiles a wide variety of available assistance programs, from crisis support lines to industry-specific support groups like CHOW (chowco.org), but it also links community members to up-to-date classes and other events related to health and wellness.

The first of these is a free mental-health webinar hosted by Khesed Wellness. **It's Not Just You: Navigating Mental Health in the Industry** takes place via Zoom from 11 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Interested participants can register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Hhoff4YxRAyUF5q--mKmg.

Please contact us if you have additional question or would like photos, logos, or other assets related to the Angel Relief Fund and the CRF's mission to support health and wellness in the restaurant industry.

About the Colorado Restaurant Association

The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA) is dedicated to the enhancement and success of Colorado's foodservice industry. Founded in 1933, the CRA is the leading trade organization for the state's dynamic restaurant scene. The CRA represents, educates, and promotes a \$14 billion industry comprising more than 12,400 eating and drinking establishments and 283,000 workers. corerestaurant.org

About the Colorado Restaurant Foundation

Established in 1987 as the 501(c)3 philanthropic foundation of the CRA, the CRF's mission is dedicated to enhancing the industry's training and education, career development, and the overall well-being of the industry and its workforce. The CRF supports individuals in the restaurant industry as they advance and thrive. corerestaurant.org/foundation