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Pennsylvania Conference for Women Donates \$175,000 to Women-Owned Restaurants in Initiative with Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association

70 eateries from across PA receive grants as industry suffers economic hardship

To help women impacted by the pandemic's economic fallout, the Pennsylvania Conference for Women has donated \$175,000 to women-owned restaurants across the state in an initiative with the Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association.

As a result, 70 women-owned restaurants from all corners of Pennsylvania received \$2,500 to help pay employees and defray other costs. The Pennsylvania Conference for Women provided the funds to the Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association, which dispersed the grants. A list of the grant recipients can be found [here](#).

“Women in business are facing unprecedented challenges this year, and the Pennsylvania Conference for Women wanted to give back in a meaningful way,” said Leslie Stiles, Pennsylvania Conference for Women Board President. “This initiative truly demonstrates the power that comes from women helping women.”

The non-partisan, nonprofit Pennsylvania Conference for Women – whose annual conference will be held virtually on November 11th – is committed to promoting gender equality and to amplifying the influence of women in the workplace.

This year women are shouldering a disproportionate burden due to the impact of Covid-19. The pandemic has resulted in mass layoffs in many industries that employ women, such as hospitality and retail; has increased caregiving responsibilities; and has had a devastating impact on women-owned small businesses.

Pennsylvania restaurants have been forced to lay off more than 330,000 employees due to the pandemic, with current staffing levels at just 63 percent of pre-pandemic numbers.

“The partnership between the Pennsylvania Conference for Women and the PRLA is helping many women-owned restaurants in our state pay employees, provide a service to their community and, in many cases, keep their doors open,” said John Longstreet, PRLA president & CEO.

The virtual Pennsylvania Conference for Women this year will feature speakers including Academy Award-winning actor, producer, and activist Viola Davis; education advocate and author Tara Westover; and Emmy Award-winning life coach and best-selling author Ayanla Vanzant. The highly interactive Conference also will feature topical breakout sessions and will give attendees opportunities to network, support women-owned businesses in a virtual exhibit hall and participate in career coaching and resume reviews.

The Pennsylvania Conference for Women is part of the [nation's largest network of women's conferences](#), with events in California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Texas, as well as year-round programming.

Tickets are available at <http://www.pa.conference.for.women.org>. To apply for media credentials to cover the 2020 Pennsylvania Conference for Women, please complete [this form](#).

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