



THE MASSACHUSETTS
CONFERENCE
FOR WOMEN

The **MRA** 
Massachusetts Restaurant Association
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Massachusetts Conference for Women Donates \$285,000 to Women-Owned Restaurants in Initiative with Massachusetts Restaurant Association

57 eateries from across MA receive grants as industry suffers economic hardship

The Massachusetts Conference for Women has donated \$285,000 to women-owned restaurants across the state in an initiative with the Massachusetts Restaurant Association.

Fifty-seven women-owned restaurants from all corners of Massachusetts received \$5,000 to help pay employees and defray other costs. The [Massachusetts Conference for Women](#) provided the funds and worked collaboratively with the [Massachusetts Restaurant Association](#) to select the recipients from nearly 600 applications. A list of the grant recipients can be found [here](#).

The non-partisan, nonprofit Massachusetts Conference for Women – whose annual conference will be held virtually on December 10th – is committed to promoting gender equality and to amplifying the influence of women in the workplace.

“We are heartened to help women business owners in an industry that has been badly battered by the economic effects of this pandemic,” said Gloria Larson, Massachusetts Conference for Women Board President. “Women are facing economic hardships on so many levels, which makes the concept of women helping women more important than ever. That is the embodiment of the Massachusetts Conference for Women.”

This year women are shouldering a disproportionate economic 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 forced women to drop out of the workforce in far larger numbers than men; and has had a devastating impact on women-owned small businesses.

Massachusetts restaurants employed 300,000 people in March 2020, but more than 255,000 people have been furloughed during the shutdown and today 39 percent have yet to be recalled.

“Restaurants have suffered greatly through the past seven months and this initiative provides a badly needed and much-welcomed boost to these women-owned businesses,” said Bob Luz, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Restaurant Association. “These grants will enable these establishments to pay employees and other costs and, in some cases, will help them keep their doors open so they can continue to provide services to their communities.”

More than 15,000 attendees have registered to join the 16th Annual Massachusetts Conference for Women, a virtual event which will feature speakers including multi-talented musician and activist Alicia Keys, Golden Globe Award winning actress Awkwafina, and presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. The interactive Conference also will give attendees opportunities to engage with speakers and each other, support women-owned businesses in a virtual exhibit hall and participate in career coaching and resume reviews.

The Massachusetts 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 www.maconferenceforwomen.org. To apply for media credentials to cover the 2020 Massachusetts Conference for Women, please complete [this form](#).

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