



**For Immediate Release**

Monday, August 17, 2020

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**Texas Conference for Women, Texas Restaurant Association  
Announce \$150,000 Initiative to Support Women-Owned Restaurants**

The [Texas Conference for Women](#) and [Texas Restaurant Association](#) have launched a new initiative to award more than \$150,000 in grants to women-owned restaurants across Texas. The Texas Conference for Women will donate the grant funds to the Texas Restaurant Association's Texas Restaurant Relief Fund, in an effort to assist women in an industry that has been devastated by COVID-19.

The program will provide \$2,500 each to more than 60 women-owned restaurants across Texas, which will be selected via an application process through the Texas Restaurant Association. Restaurants can apply at <http://txrestaurant.org/tcw> until September 16<sup>th</sup>. Grant recipients are scheduled to be announced in September.

The non-partisan, nonprofit [Texas Conference for Women](#), the state's largest women's conference, has been committed to promoting gender equality and to amplifying the influence of women in the workplace and beyond for more than 20 years.

This year, women are shouldering a disproportionate portion of many impacts of COVID-19. Women accounted for 60 percent of job losses in March, according to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), as job losses occurred in industries that employ more women than men. Women [are more likely to be](#) impacted by the increased caregiving obligations from shuttered schools and day care centers. And while all businesses have taken a deep hit, there has been [a precipitous drop](#) in the number of women-owned businesses in the United States.

"While these systemic inequities need to be addressed, as a community of women, we are committed to supporting other women – and hope this will provide some relief," said Carla Piñeyro Sublett, Texas Conference for Women Board President.

Texas restaurants have lost more than 700,000 jobs due to the pandemic, and restaurants have been forced to lay off hundreds of thousands of employees.

"We are thrilled at the partnership between TRA and the Texas Conference for Women," said Dr. Emily Williams Knight, President and CEO of TRA. "Working women in this industry need particular support right now. (This initiative is) focused on how companies can create inclusive environments where women can thrive."

To date, more than 8,000 attendees are expected to join the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Texas Conference for Women, which will feature keynote speakers including global philanthropist Melinda Gates, actor and producer Issa Rae, and author and poet Elizabeth Acevedo. The interactive Conference also will give attendees opportunities to engage with speakers and each other, support women-owned businesses and women in business through an online marketplace and participate in a career pavilion and job fair.

The Texas 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 <https://www.txconferenceforwomen.org>. To apply for media credentials to cover the 2020 Texas Conference for Women, please complete [this form](#).