



## **Congressional Outreach Talking Points**

The purpose of this document is to serve as a helpful messaging guide if you will be reaching out to your Senators and Representatives in Congress to discuss the America's Recovery Fund Coalition (ARFC).

### **ABOUT US**

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ARFC brings together more than 100 organizations across retail, restaurants, theaters, the travel industry, construction, and financial services. Together, we represent 58 million American workers – that's 45 percent of the American workforce. ARFC was established to advocate and build support for the creation of additional economic support to help businesses recover following the government-mandated shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are calling this effort America's Recovery Fund ("the Fund"). To see our members, visit [americasrecoveryfund.org/about-us](https://americasrecoveryfund.org/about-us).

### **WHY WE NEED THE RECOVERY FUND**

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Current steps that have been taken by Congress to date are not enough to help businesses recover. The programs enacted thus far provided much-needed help in the short term, and we need to build upon the current options to address the overwhelming need for additional capital support to businesses. A broad-based, efficient Recovery Fund that does not pick winners and losers is the best path forward. As businesses reopen after hitting pause, they will be dealing with a new normal. At this time, 78 percent of small business owners say more funding needs to be available and 53 percent say funding should be easier to apply for and access. (Goldman Sachs Small Business Survey, [4/27/20](#))

### **COALITION OBJECTIVES**

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The Fund proposal is a federal business interruption grant program backstopped and administered by the U.S. Treasury to assist affected businesses by providing capital to kickstart economic recovery. ARFC aims to bring together a broad cross-section of industries that are grappling with a national economic emergency to advocate for relief for businesses with bipartisan legislation that:

- Includes broad eligibility that does not pick winners and losers among significantly impacted industries;
- Prioritizes women- and minority-owned businesses and those that serve low- and moderate-income communities;
- Provides liquidity and certainty for business-owners to encourage reopening and rehiring of employees, diminishing the need for unemployment claims; and
- Helps cover essential operating expenses including rent, utilities, payroll, and state and local taxes.

### **CALLING YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS**

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When you call your member of Congress to advocate for the Recovery Fund, remember:

- Personalize the conversation. Let them know about your business: how many people you employ in their district, what you do, etc.
- Describe your experience with the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Was your business eligible? If so, did you have trouble applying? Did you receive funds but it's not enough?
- Describe ARFC: our membership represents 58 million American workers and 45% of the economy.
- Tell them why a Recovery Fund is the best next step to help businesses survive: we need a federal grant program to directly assist businesses and provide capital to help them recover.