

Founded in March 2020 by the restaurant and bar community, the Independent Restaurant Coalition (IRC) began with a singular mission: to save independent restaurants and bars and the 11 million people we employ who were affected by COVID-19. The IRC is committed to building a sustainable future for independent restaurateurs, their employees, and the communities they support. From increasing food recovery from restaurants to providing education that encourages healthy choices in food preparation and purchasing by consumers, the IRC seeks to empower our members to take part in actionable ways that contribute to the success of the program pillars established by the White House.

What we learned during the peak of the pandemic is that when we unite our voices, we create change. Representing the unique needs of the independent restaurant and bar community across the country, these singular voices have grown into a grassroots movement empowering nearly 200,000 independent restaurant and bar owners, suppliers, farmers, ranchers, purveyors, workers and diners to take action and advocate for the policies that matter to our community, resulting in an engaged audience that has never been as vocal or as organized as they are today. IRC members have the confidence, tools and knowledge to share what they've learned and help educate and inspire others to do the same.

Chefs and operators recognize the physical and emotional nourishment that comes with a plate of healthy food and are often the first to jump in and help in every crisis, from feeding people displaced by hurricanes and floods to buying a farmer's bumper crop of vegetables or excess milk to help ensure they can stay in business. Our members are results-oriented and dedicated problem solvers, whether it's in their own community or that of a neighbor's.

Independent restaurants and bars influence supply chains, pulling healthy, environmentally sound choices through the market place. We engage inclusively, collaborate generously, educate tirelessly and advocate loudly. The IRC will continue to take a bottom-up approach to our advocacy, listening and learning from members, mobilizing our supporters to act and we look forward to being a partner in ending hunger and improving the health and well-being of our communities.