In Connecticut, 5 businesses reported a total loss of $830,000, averaging $166,000 per business.
- PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IMPACT -

Lack of J-1 Visa Exchange Visitors hamstrings U.S. public diplomacy goals by taking away a key positive U.S. experience from tomorrow's international leaders, and preventing them from engaging with their American host communities.

Host employers across America agree or strongly agree that Summer Work Travel and Camp Counselor participants:

- **Enable U.S. based staff to gain a better understanding of other cultures:** 95%
- **Contribute to a positive culture in the workplace:** 97%
- **Make the community more sensitive to other cultures:** 92%

"What happened in 2021 cannot happen again; my business will not survive another season like 2021, and our current survival "success" was as much luck as it was blood, sweat, and tears."

-Summer Camp in Thompson, CT

“Owner and wife working 90 hour week for 4 months with no days off. Staff is working 55 hours per week. Forced to cut hours of operation. Forced to reduce the variety of products. Everyone is burned out.”

-Candy Store in Rehoboth Beach, DE

“The greatest impact can be seen in the lasting relationships that our staff has come to cherish. This program opens doors for J-1 students to experience cultural exchange but it also opens doors for American workers to establish relationships all around the world."

-Amusement Park in Keystone, SD

“Seasonal staffing issues almost destroyed our business. We had to reduce hours of operation and the stress it put on the handful of employees we had was tremendous."

-Restaurant in Kitty Hawk, NC

“Participants enrich our resort year after year with a combination of enthusiasm and culture. They introduce our chefs to international cuisine, which in turn is shared with our guests and staff.”

-Ski Resort in Park City, UT

“BridgeUSA participants are invaluable to us and our community, bringing fresh ideas and culture to the camp. They are also a boon to our local small-town community. Restaurants and other businesses in the area offer discounts to our staff, knowing they can get business from them. In turn, our international staff feel welcomed and appreciated in our community.“

-Summer Camp in South Windham, CT