In North Carolina, 25 businesses reported a total loss of $4,073,000, averaging $162,920 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:

- **95%**
  Enable U.S. based staff to gain a better understanding of other cultures

- **97%**
  Contribute to a positive culture in the workplace

- **92%**
  Make the community more sensitive to other cultures

“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**

“Learning about other cultures and becoming lifelong friends with many of the participants has enriched our lives immeasurably.”

- **Restaurant in Kill Devil Hills, NC**

“The lack of international exchange program participants and seasonal worker shortage resulted in product quality reduction, full time staff burnout, longer queue times, and lack of company cultural experience opportunities for full time staff.”

- **Vacation Rentals in Nags Head, NC**

"BridgeUSA programs bring cultural aspects to North Carolina that some employees would not otherwise encounter."

- **Restaurant in Bryson, NC**

“We lost revenue because people thought our stores were trashy due to merchandise being in disarray all over the stores and longer wait lines. Customers just couldn't understand. Bad reviews on social media so next year's revenue will be impacted as well.”

- **Retail Store in Nags Head, NC**

“We were unable to provide the same service we are known for. Staff is exhausted and some are leaving.”

- **Grocery Store in Buxton, NC**

“Reduced hours means reduced income. We've run thin just like everyone else.”

- **Restaurant in Kill Devil Hills, NC**