In South Dakota, 4 businesses reported a total loss of $650,000, averaging $162,500 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%

"We had to reduce our rates because we cannot provide the proper service due to short staffing."
- Hotel 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

“Owner and wife working 90 hour weeks 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

“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

“Exchange participants provide fantastic cultural exposure to the local community and also support the local economy by renting accommodations, purchasing goods and gifts for their families.”
- Restaurant in Dennis, MA

“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