In Virginia, 9 businesses reported a total loss of $1,460,000, averaging 
$162,222 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

“Our staff are burned out and our guest experience has suffered mightily. Our managers have done the work of line associates just to keep our guests happy. Our core associates feel demoralized and have no work/life balance. Without this program our guests have a negative experience. This is not how our hotel wants to do business now or in the future.”

- Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA

“Less staff = less campers = less income.”

- Summer Camp in Charlottesville, VA

“The Summer Work Travel Program brings revenue into the VA Beach/Hampton Roads community. Participants spend money here and spread the word to their friends that this is a friendly, great place to have an internship or exchange program experience. Participants make friends here that last a lifetime.”

- Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA

“The hotel had a large number of guest satisfaction issues due to the staffing shortages, resulting in long wait times and late check-ins. This cost the hotel money by giving discounts to upset guests. We had to shorten hours of operation, condense the menu, and reduce seating capacity.”

- Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA

“Summer Work Travel participants help bring "life" to our property. We have very tenured associates (10-25 years) and hosting international students here makes them feel special as they introduce participants to American culture.”

- Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA

“Our international team members from around the world bring cultures and perspectives to share with our staff and campers. It's invaluable!“

- Summer Camp in Palmyra, VA