

PAY IT FORWARD *Charleston*

Serving those who serve us.

Providing Emergency Assistance to food and beverage community members experiencing financial hardship.

\$250,000 support provided to members of the food and beverage community through no-cost grocery assistance and emergency financial relief

\$100,000 in grocery assistance equal to 11,575 bags of provisions provided to 2,750 individuals over the course of eight weeks

\$150,000 in financial relief distributed between February 2021 and February 2024

237 individual grants provided to employees representing 80 different businesses

Average grant amount in 2023 of \$697

Applicants received one on one support from a dedicated team member

Pay It Forward deployed 35 local and national resources to applicants which supported Healthcare, Housing, Food Security, Financial Literacy, Legal Services, Childcare, Clothing, Dental, Eldercare and more



Who was supported:

- Examples of need included accidents, illnesses, weather catastrophes, pregnancies and new arrivals, unexpected caregiving responsibilities, home and auto repairs, bereavement & mental health support
- Employees of restaurants, bars, food trucks, caterers, institutional food service providers and industry suppliers have all received support
- 52% of recipients were uninsured
- 30% of those supported were single parents
- Ages of recipients ranged from 16 to 67
- 56% male, 43% female, 1% non-binary
- 49% African American, 38% White/Non-Hispanic, 4% Hispanic/Latino, 3% Asian, 1% Native American, 5% Other/preferred not to answer
- 77% of recipients experienced food insecurity 'sometimes' or 'often'
- 17% did not have access to a reliable vehicle
- 33% commuted to work by bike or on foot
- Average monthly net income: \$2,110
- Average hours worked per week: 36
- Number of children/dependents supported through household financial relief: 297

