

**Go Code Restaurant Gift Card Project Summary**  
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The COVID-19 Pandemic is wreaking havoc on the restaurant service industry. With future stay at home orders on the horizon, small local restaurants are struggling and many have been forced to close their doors permanently. According to the National Restaurant Association, nearly 100,000 restaurants and bars have closed permanently or for long-term during the pandemic. The Independent Restaurant Coalition warned 85% of independent restaurants could close by the end of 2020 without a revitalization fund.

The data available on the Colorado Information Marketplace(CIM) includes data on Colorado restaurants and food licenses. The CIM maintains a dataset for all restaurants in Colorado and restaurant sales by county and quarter. Utilizing additional private datasets such as Yelp, we can improve recommendations by incorporating reviews and price points.

Our solution is a tool to help community members discover and support local restaurants by purchasing gift cards for future visits. By cross matching reviews and qualitative information, our tool will generate cuisine recommendations based on local small businesses accompanied by their gift card purchase link.

The restaurant gift card portal will increase visibility to struggling restaurants and increase cash flow during pandemic lockdowns and winter months. These gift cards provide a revenue stream that allows restaurants to better manage their resources for long term sustainability during challenging market conditions. A tool such as this also has the ability to decrease Covid-19 transmission by decreasing the travel radius of the customers or delivery drivers.

Currently there are multiple social media groups across platforms that are attempting to share links to local restaurants to gain community support. These solutions are often lost in long comment threads with no way to organize or retrieve. Our solution aggregates multiple datasets into a statewide portal that can better gauge the industry and give recommendations to citizens.

Our team is committed to data science for social good and supporting local communities. We believe this tool could be used soon and help keep local restaurants afloat during the holidays, remainder of the pandemic, and life after.