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CRA NEWS

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Nationwide shortage of cooks leads to innovative solutions

The demand for cooks is steadily growing with the number of new restaurants and people who love to dine out. Restaurants around the country are having difficulties staffing kitchens with cooks, even in major cities like Chicago, San Francisco and New York. Food industry leaders have taken innovative approaches to staffing kitchens. In addition to the ideas mentioned here, the



CRA Foundation can connect you with culinary training programs like **ProStart** and **Force in Training** to help develop future cooks in the industry.

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CRA emphasizes that California law does not allow employers to keep tips

The U.S. Department of Labor plans to rescind a 2011 rule that has prevented restaurants from requiring servers to share a portion of their tips with kitchen staff. If this proposal moves forward, expanded tip-pooling could bring some relief to hardworking dishwashers and cooks, some of the workers that restaurants have the toughest time hanging onto. But, the DOL's proposal could allow owners in other parts of the country to keep tips. Not only does the CRA not support – and not advocate for – the idea of owners keeping tips, we also took the opportunity this week to let the public know that in California, tips belong to employees, not employers. Take a look at this story, which includes the CRA's perspective, and insights from CRA Board Members Rocco Biale and Ben Shahvar and [click here](#) for the recently updated CRA's Industry Insight on tips.

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Restaurants add jobs in January, but have higher than average wage costs

According to data released last Friday, restaurants added nearly 31,100 jobs in January. The industry's job growth had previously slowed over the last two years, falling to a low of 22,000 in 2017. Higher wages, however, have spurred discussions about industry pricing power and elevated profit concerns in restaurants with weak traffic.

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621 Capitol Mall, Suite 2000
Sacramento, CA 95814



PH 800.765.4842 **FAX** 916.447.6182

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