

Aspen Public House



**WORKING
CAPITAL TO KEEP
CRITICAL STAFF**

ASPEN - Essential working capital from NFL during COVID helps keep staff and bridge the gap.

From its inception, the Aspen Public House had been a thriving establishment in the Aspen restaurant scene. In the fall of 2019, owner Bill Johnson was able to hire renowned executive chef, Abhay Nair. Together they built on the character of the restaurant by offering a “Curry House – Gastropub” fusion concept. The new menu offerings combined with a redesigned cocktail and beverage package resulted in approximately 20% sales growth over the winter season (pre-COVID). But at the onset of COVID, they needed a quick response for additional funds to bridge the gap between early losses in business revenue and promised funding from the COVID relief loans.

According to Johnson, “When the SBA loans were just at the beginning of their discussions, the NFL was able to act swiftly, supplying necessary emergency funding to cover short-term liabilities like rent and payroll – enabling us to keep our staff and give us operating capital. The NFL loan enabled us to stay in business during those critical months before PPP (the Payroll Protection Program) became available.”

Thanks in part to the NFL loan, the Aspen Public House currently enjoys a strong reputation among customers, has a fantastic local following, and is in full recovery mode from the pandemic.

