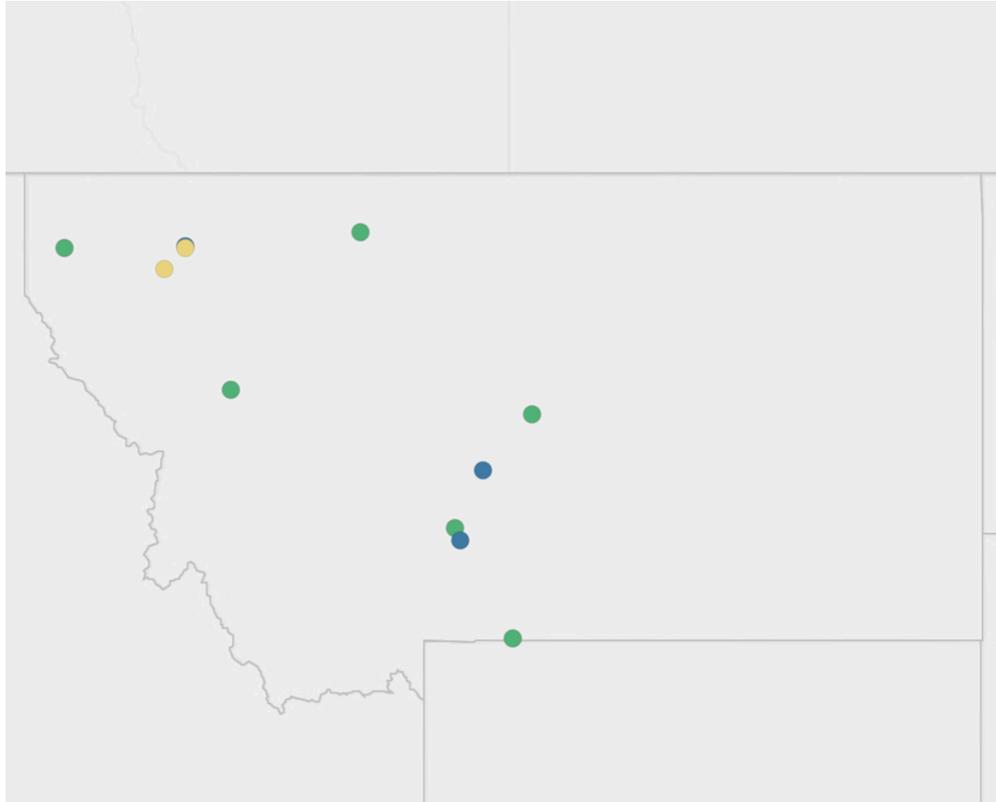


# The Impact of COVID-19 on Rural and Tribal Water and Wastewater Systems



## MONTANA



**11** respondents

**100%** of respondents were small systems  
 ≈ **712** residents  
 Average system size of respondent

**FACILITIES TYPE:**  
**82%** water | **18%** both  
**0%** wastewater

**0-1:** Average full-time staff size  
 Many supplement with part-time, contract or volunteer staff

Has the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted your system's financial position, or do you anticipate negative impacts?  
**18% : Yes**  
**36% : No**  
**46% : Not sure**

### FINANCIAL VIABILITY

How long respondents can continue to pay for all system expenses under the current financial circumstances due to COVID-19:

- N/A: Already could not cover all costs
- Less than 2 months
- 2 to 6 months
- 7 to 12 months
- More than a year
- Don't know/ too early to tell
- Don't want to answer

**27% of respondents are not sure how long they can cover all costs under current financial conditions**

**2 small systems** provided detailed financial info and indicated their revenue **decreased** when comparing April 2019 to April 2020. (n = 2)

82% of respondents said they have an active water/wastewater infrastructure loan or bond, or a recent loan or grant award/commitment not yet closed (n = 10)

**\$1,750**  
 small system respondent median monthly revenue decrease (n = 2)

**About the survey:** In early May, the RCAP Network surveyed communities to understand the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural and tribal water and wastewater systems. Results are from systems the RCAP Network serves and are not representative of all small systems. These results, however, provide an important snapshot of rural and tribal experiences so policymakers can make informed decisions on how to address these issues during COVID-19 recovery.



The Midwest Assistance Program, the Midwest RCAP, has been helping communities and tribal nations find solutions to their infrastructure and development needs through information, resource management, expertise, and technical assistance since 1979. MAP provides solutions to rural communities and tribal nations each year in 9 midwestern and western states. Communities are revitalized through help from MAP, which then strengthens the future and vitality of rural America. **Visit [map-inc.org](http://map-inc.org) for more info.**