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

MICHIGAN

**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

44% of all MI respondents cannot sustain losses for more than six months of current financial conditions

Challenges faced because of financial conditions:
- Complying with state and federal regulations
- Delays/limitations to capital improvement
- Maintaining their system

**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.

**9 respondents**

- 88% of respondents were small systems (n = 8)
- ≈ 3,141 residents
  
  Average system size of respondent

**FACILITIES TYPE:**

- 11% water | 78% both
- 11% wastewater

- 1-2: 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?

- 67% : Yes
- 11% : No
- 22% : Not sure

**3 small system respondents**

indicated they experienced a decrease in revenues, comparing April 2019 to April 2020 (n = 3)

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