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

NORTH DAKOTA

FINDINGS FROM THE RCAP NETWORK NATIONAL COMMUNITY SURVEY

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

17% of all ND respondents cannot sustain losses for more than six months of current financial conditions

Challenges faced because of financial conditions:
- Paying staff
- Maintaining their system
- Delays/limitations to capital improvement

Has the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted your system’s financial position, or do you anticipate negative impacts?
- 13% : Yes
- 39% : No
- 48% : Not sure

1 small system provided detailed financial info and indicated their revenue decreased when comparing April 2019 to April 2020. 1 small system also indicated no change. (n = 2)

$3,000 small system respondent median monthly revenue decrease (n = 1)

23 respondents

100% of respondents were small systems

≈ 964 residents
Average system size of respondent

FACILITIES TYPE:
0% water | 96% both | 4% wastewater

1-2: Average full-time staff size
Many supplement with part-time, contract or volunteer staff

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 for more info.