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



8 respondents

**100%** of respondents were small systems

≈ **2,532 residents** Average system size of respondent

FACILITIES TYPE: 12.5% water | 87.5% both

**5-6: 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

> 75% : Yes 12.5% : No

12.5% : Not sure

4 respondents answered they are collaborating

with other utilities

or organizations to help fill gaps and/or resolve

any issues

0% wastewater

impacts?

## MAINE



## FINANCIAL VIABILITY

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

|  |  | Don't know/<br>too early<br>to tell |  |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|

## 13% of all ME respondents cannot sustain losses for more than six months of current financial conditions

Challenges faced because of financial conditions:

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Maintaining their system
Compliance

• Delays/limitations to capital improvement

Three respondents answered detailed financial questions; their revenue did not change from April 2019 to April 2020.

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.



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