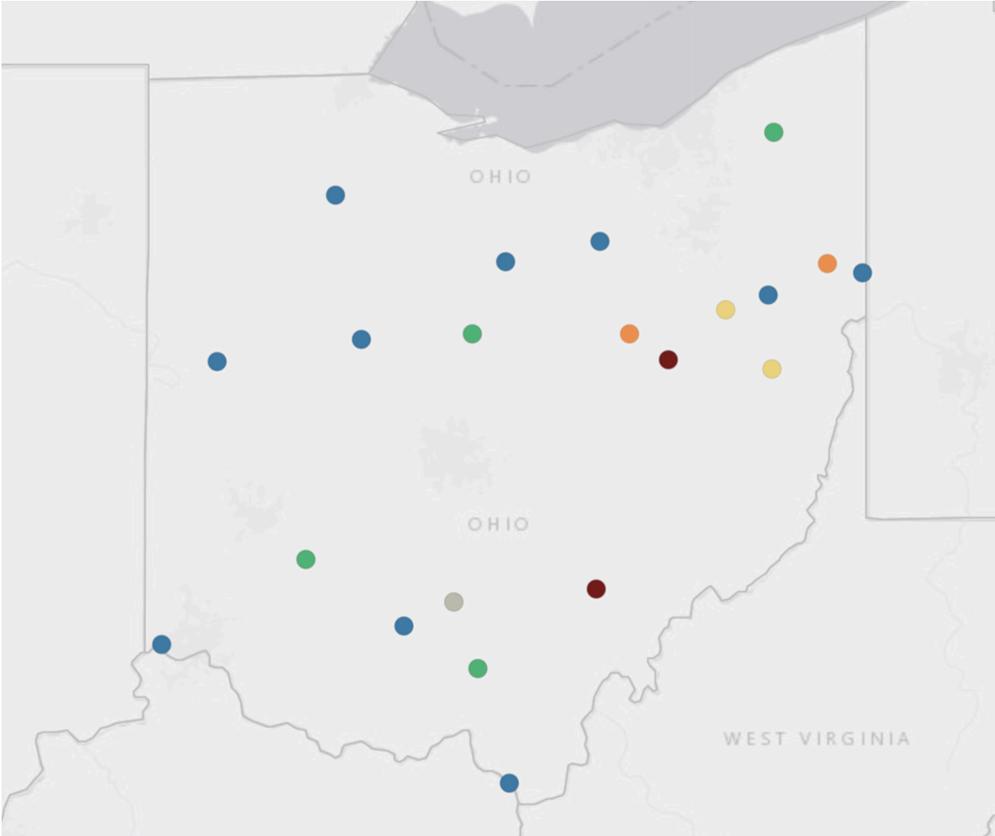# The Impact of COVID-19 on Rural and Tribal Water and Wastewater Systems

RCAP

OHIO

21 respondents

95% of respondents were **small systems** (n = 20)

≈ 2,495 residents
Average system size of respondent

FACILITIES TYPE:
19% water | **67%** both
14% wastewater

3-4: 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?

71.4% : Yes
14.3% : No
14.3% : Not sure

80% of small systems indicated they experienced a **decrease in revenues**, comparing April 2019 to April 2020 (n = 10)

$4,100
OH small system respondent median monthly revenue decrease (n = 8)

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

19% of all OH respondents cannot sustain losses for more than six months of current financial conditions

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

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.

Great Lakes COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

The Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP), the Great Lakes RCAP, began as a Community Action Agency more than 50 years ago serving Ohio and has since expanded to seven states. GLCAP provides rural development solutions for small communities for a variety of needs. **Visit glcap.org for more info.**