Rent payments tumbled 12% overall in April 2020 with family households showing even greater instability. Housing challenges grew in nearly every tracked category. This emergency will deepen in May, especially for workforce renters, as they exhaust savings and emergency relief funds.

March Rent Payments
Pre-Crisis Payments Were Strong

98%

April Rent Payments
Rent Payments Fell 12% in April As Coronovirus Hits Ohio

86%

Nonpayment was more pronounced in workforce settings, where some operators saw 20–30% of tenants fall behind on rent. All family housing providers reported significant arrears. Senior households were much less likely to miss rent, with 75% of operators reporting “no significant changes”. However, senior living providers reported increased need for supportive services.

COVID-19 AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPACTS

Respondents to the AHACO member survey reported significant month-over-month increases in housing challenges. Difficulties grew in all tracked sectors. Some challenges already exceed initial projections of how severe the crisis would become. Only one measurement, obtaining permits and approvals, eased in April.
We can act locally to stabilize the most vulnerable families without waiting for additional federal assistance. Our cities, counties, and State should immediately deploy Community Development Block Grant dollars allocated under the CARES Act to support households that are most at-risk. Building this funding vehicle now ensures we can release new funding effectively should it become available.

AHACO supports Congress in allocating $100 billion to the Emergency Stabilization Grant to stop the impending flood of evictions.

Don't Wait, Release Local Aid Now

Ten AHACO members, including some of the largest affordable housing and homeless service providers in Franklin County, responded to this survey on the impacts of COVID-19 on their organization and the people they serve.

Supply Needed

Half of respondents reported challenges obtaining PPE. The Community Shelter Board is accepting disinfectant, PPE, and personal hygiene donations.

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