### **HOUSING** +COVID-19

# A DISASTER STILL LOOMS

AUGUST 2020 AHACO MEMBER SURVEY

September marks the beginning of a new phase in the coronavirus economy, one in which the uncertainty of a new eviction moratorium is amplified by the lack of accompanying rental relief. This report uncovers precursor data for August including a deeper look at the unique housing barriers faced by our senior citizens.



60% of senior housing communities struggle to ducate residents on COVID risks and precautions



# 2 IN 5

Senior housing providers reported difficulty raising the resources needed to provide supportive services



seducatrisk risk

71%

Challenges Housing
Providers Report Senior
Tenants Are Experiencing

**57% 57% 57%** 

AHACO's August 2020 member survey revealed that the challenges confronting seniors today extend well beyond the health risks posed by the coronavirus. The most pervasive housing obstacles stemmed from increasing reliance on computers and the internet to meet basic living needs (below).

Other barriers spoke to the social determinants of health, like restricted access to food, exercise, and basic medical care. Despite many low-income seniors surviving on fixed incomes, nearly 3/10 housing providers still reported resident difficulty in maintaining their income.

Difficulty with computer services Dif

and

supports

Difficulty social distancing

Lack of internet access

Difficulty getting food and groceries

Increased fear or anxiety 29%

29%

29%

Difficulty getting adequate exercise

43%

Difficulty wearing masks Difficulty meeting medical needs

Difficulty keeping income

#### CALL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TODAY!

**BIG NEED** Congress must allocate \$100 billion in rent relief to stop a January eviction crisis and help housing providers pay their mortgages and maintain safe properties. Because this will take time to negotiate and distribute, the State of Ohio must follow our peers and commit at least \$100 million in rapid-deployment rent aid now.

**SAVE OUR DREAM** Congress must provide \$75 billion for a housing assistance fund to help homeowners that are struggling to make ends meet due to the pandemic.

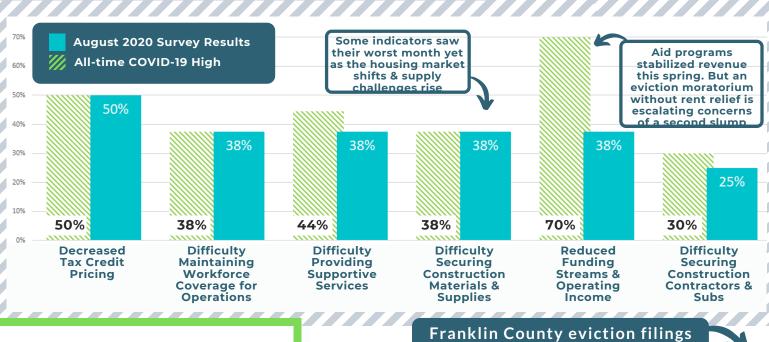
PREPARE NOW The lack of state and national relief action means that local governments must prepare to stem the tide of evictions on their own after CARES Act funding expires and evictions resume in January, cities must be prepared to deploy CDBG and other funds for rent and mortgage aid to avoid the worst of a housing meltdown.

**NEVER AGAIN** Congress needs to establish a 4% LIHTC "floor" and local policymakers must fund affordable housing to close the 54k household affordability gap so that Central Ohioans are less vulnerable to future economic shocks.

#### THE FALL IS COMING

September is the first month of a new eviction moratorium. But without rent relief, unemployed workers are left waiting for the other shoe to drop on new years day. As other interventions also expire, like the Paycheck Protection Program, and a housing meltdown is triggered, the eviction crisis will grow worse and efforts to reverse the economic damage will become more difficult.

In August, 60% of AHACO's responding family and workforce housing providers reported an increase in rent defaults, continuing a 6-month trend.



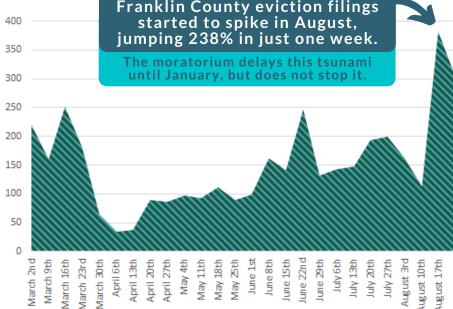
#### **ABOUT US**

The members of the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio are twenty-one non-profit and for-profit organizations that represent the full spectrum of affordable housing activities in Franklin County, from homeless and housing services, to housing development and housing finance. Working together, we are advancing solutions to address the affordable housing challenge, which will support economic progress and strengthen the community. Sign up for our newsletter at www.AHACO.org.

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AHACO thanks our Strategic Advisory Council for supporting this publication: AEP, Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County, Cardinal Health, EMH&T, Fifth Third Bank, Huntington Bank, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Nationwide Children's Hospital, Nationwide Foundation, Park National Bank, PNC, Tidwell Group and United Way of Central Ohio. Eight AHACO members, owning over 5,000 housing units in Franklin County, responded to this survey. Survey respondents, allies, and media reports were used to compile this publication.

## **CORONAVIRUS HELP**

If you know a senior that is struggling to stay safe and healthy, these free resources can help.



#### **HOUSING HELP**

Impact Community Action's HOPE Fund 614.252.2799 Find a Housing Counselor 800.569.4287 The Legal Aid Society of Columbus 1.888.246.4420



#### **UTILITY & BILL PAY HELP**

MORPC Home Energy Program 614.621.1171 Impact Community Action 614.252.2799 Hands on Central Ohio 614.221.6766



#### **FOOD HELP**

Franklin County Office on Aging 614.525.6200 LifeCare Alliance 614.278.3130 NNEMAP Food Pantry 614.297.0533 (in-county delivery)



#### **HEALTH & MEDICAL HELP**

Franklin County Public Health, COVID Testing 614.645.1519 Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio 614.227.0301 Disaster Distress Helpline 1.800.985.5990



#### **GENERAL HELP**

Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging 1.800.589.7277 Franklin County Office on Aging 614.525.6200 Hands on Central Ohio 614.221.6766



#### SOCIAL CONNECTIONS HELP

Ohio Department on Aging 1.833.632.2428 AARP Friendly Voice 1.888.281.0145 Volutneer through SeniorCorps 1.800.942.2677

