



SURVEY SHOWS RH REELING FROM PANDEMIC

By Robin Thompson, Director of Research and Evaluation

The pandemic has taken a heavy toll on RH operators and their clients, according to a new nationwide survey conducted by the Fletcher Group RCOE. Created in partnership with Oxford House and the National Alliance of Recovery Residences, it shows that facilities have suffered a severe drop in revenue, with losses ranging in some cases over \$50,000.

Fewer Residents

The survey was prompted by a weekly census done by Kentucky Housing Authority Administrator Mike Townsend. His data from 18 Recovery Kentucky centers showed a 41% reduction in residents from March to July.

Methodology

The survey focused on individuals in Recovery Housing leadership roles (owner/operators, peer managers, house managers, house presidents, etc.) and concentrated on five key factors: operational/policy changes, implications for residents, economic implications, training and support, and RH general information.

Distribution

The survey was distributed electronically in June and July using contacts derived from existing email lists and social media sources. The respondents, 1,419 in all, hailed from all 50 states. An in-depth analysis is still underway, but here are the preliminary results.

COVID-19 Precautions

Recovery Housing leaders have made substantial efforts to reduce COVID-19 infection. Almost all respondents said they have a policy or procedure in place to address infection and have also implemented policies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

New Residents

Fewer than 10% of respondents have stopped accepting new residents. The reasons include not having any vacancies and fear of infecting current residents.

Meeting Attendance

A large majority of residents said the pandemic is having “somewhat or a lot” of impact on their ability to attend meetings.

Financial Difficulties

The survey highlighted the severe financial challenges imposed on RH operators by the pandemic. It showed that financial support for the vast majority of RH facilities comes from resident fees or rent, but that many residents are now unable to pay those fees. Other challenges include a significant drop in donations and fundraising efforts compounded by reduced financial support from state and local governments.

More Challenging In Rural Areas

Operators in rural areas are being hit particularly hard. During the pandemic, many rural facilities report paying higher costs than urban facilities for personal protective equipment, food, staff, communications, and program operating costs.

Survey Update

We'll be updating Newsletter readers as soon as a more extensive analysis is completed.

Thank You!

It should be noted that the survey would not have been possible without the extraordinary support of Oxford House and the National Alliance of Recovery Residences (NARR).