



## The lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Michigan communities and local governments

By Debra Horner, Thomas Ivacko, and Natalie Fitzpatrick

This report presents local government leaders' views on the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Michigan in 2021, including overall impacts on local communities, evaluations of governmental coordination and resource provision, and expectations for how long negative impacts will persist. These findings are based on statewide surveys of local government leaders in the Spring 2021 wave of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), conducted between April 5 and June 7, 2021, and includes comparisons to Spring 2020 wave responses.

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) is an ongoing census survey of all 1,856 general purpose local governments in Michigan conducted since 2009 by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP). Respondents for the Spring 2021 wave of the MPPS include county administrators, board chairs, and clerks; city mayors, managers, and clerks; village presidents, managers, and clerks; and township supervisors, managers, and clerks from 1,364 jurisdictions across the state.



Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy

 Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

## Key Findings

- Considering the full range of impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic— from public health to the economy, residents' welfare, public service delivery, and more—30% of Michigan local leaders say their local communities are still suffering significant (28%) or crisis-level (2%) impacts overall, as of spring 2021. However, this is down sharply from the beginning of the pandemic a year ago, when 67% said their communities were experiencing significant (12%) or crisis-level (55%) impacts overall.
  - » The state's largest jurisdictions, and particularly counties, as well as jurisdictions in the Upper Peninsula are the most likely to report that their local communities still have significant or crisis-level impacts from COVID-19.
  - » More than a third of local leaders statewide continue to report significant or crisis-level impacts from COVID-19 specifically on their local economy (39%) and residents' welfare (34%), while 31% say there continue to be such negative impacts on local public health. These percentages have also fallen substantially compared with reports in 2020.
  - » Just 12% of local governments statewide report that the continuity of their public services continues to suffer substantial impacts due to the pandemic. However, 25% indicate that their governments' local officials and employees continue to struggle with serious negative impacts on their work experiences, including on morale, mental health, and sense of job security.
- Compared with last year, fewer local leaders report effective coordination between their jurisdiction and various units of their county government (51% now vs. 59% in 2020), units of the state government (30% now vs. 39% last year), or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services specifically (36% now vs. 40% last year).
- Overall, 40% of local leaders say their jurisdictions are getting the public health resources they need from the state or federal government to address the pandemic (up from 26% and 35% last year, respectively). Meanwhile, 34% say they are getting the financial resources needed from the state or federal government (up from 22% and 21%, last year).
  - » Local leaders' top priorities for spending federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) include infrastructure (62%), assistance for local businesses (47%) and community-wide public services (44%).
- Concerns about ongoing economic impacts are growing. Overall, 36% of local leaders expect negative economic impacts to last at least another full year, up from 27% who felt this way last year.

## Background

In mid-March 2020, the State of Michigan, along with state governments nationwide, issued an extraordinary shutdown order to slow the spread of COVID-19,<sup>1</sup> resulting in widespread disruption to Michigan communities, their economies, and their residents' lives. Throughout the rest of 2020, the state endured several surges in COVID-19 cases, which led to extending restrictions on indoor activities and gatherings of all kinds.<sup>2</sup> The beginning of 2021 saw a gradual reopening of in-person schooling, limited indoor dining, and increasing crowd sizes for outdoor events across the state. Furthermore, the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines to Michigan residents in the late spring provided hope that communities across the state could begin to return to normal. However, the pandemic is currently far from over. As of fall 2021, more than a million cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the state, more than 21,000 COVID related deaths have been confirmed,<sup>3</sup> and many Michigan hospitals continue to struggle with an overload of COVID-19 patients as the virus continues to afflict people across the state.<sup>4</sup>

Throughout the pandemic, Michigan's local governments have played a central role in responding to the outbreak, providing services, support, and information to residents during last year's shutdown and this year's reopening. Local governments tend to be particularly trusted political institutions,<sup>5</sup> which makes them critical resources for dealing with challenges like a pandemic. Michigan counties and county health departments have been on the front lines of fighting the ongoing public health emergency, while local governments large and small—county, city, village, and township—have provided public safety and first responder services, acted as information clearinghouses, developed new ways to provide public services, support local businesses and conduct elections while protecting poll workers and voters from the virus.

The Spring 2021 Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) asked Michigan local government leaders a variety of questions about the pandemic and its ongoing effects on their communities and local governments. Many of these questions were also asked last year on the Spring 2020 MPPS, which went into the field just one week after Governor Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home-order went into effect. The following report compares local leaders' assessments of COVID-19's impact at the beginning of the pandemic with their views after a year of weathering the storm.

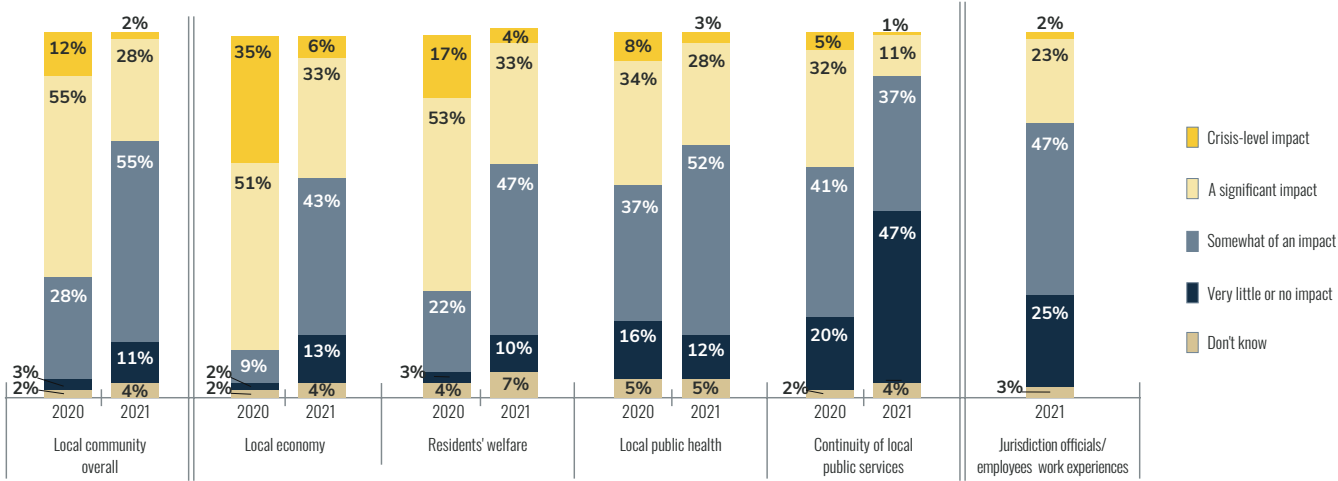
# Reported impacts of COVID-19 pandemic drop sharply from last year

In the spring of 2020 and again in 2021, the MPPS asked local leaders about a variety of potential impacts their communities were experiencing from the COVID-19 pandemic. Over that time period, most reports of negative impacts have dropped sharply. Nonetheless, many local communities across the state report continuing struggles with COVID-19 impacts, including almost one in three (30%) that say they are still suffering either significant (28%) or crisis-level (2%) impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, overall (see *Figure 1*). However, this is a steep reduction compared to the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, when 67% said their communities were experiencing significant (55%) or crisis-level (12%) impacts from the pandemic, overall.

And while more than a third of local leaders continue to report significant or crisis-level impacts from COVID-19 on their local economy (39%) and residents' welfare including food security, mental health, job security, etc. (34%), again, these percentages have also dropped by more than half from what they were in the previous year. Meanwhile, 31% say there continue to be negative impacts on local public health, down from 42% in 2021.

When it comes to local government operations, just 12% of local officials report that the continuity of their jurisdiction's public services is suffering either significant (11%) or crisis-level (1%) impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a quarter statewide (25%) indicate that their local government officials and employees continue to struggle with serious negative impacts, including concerns over morale, mental health, job security, etc.

**Figure 1**  
Local officials' assessments of a variety of possible COVID-19 impacts, 2020-2021



Note: Questionnaire item on "work experience" not asked on the 2020 MPPS

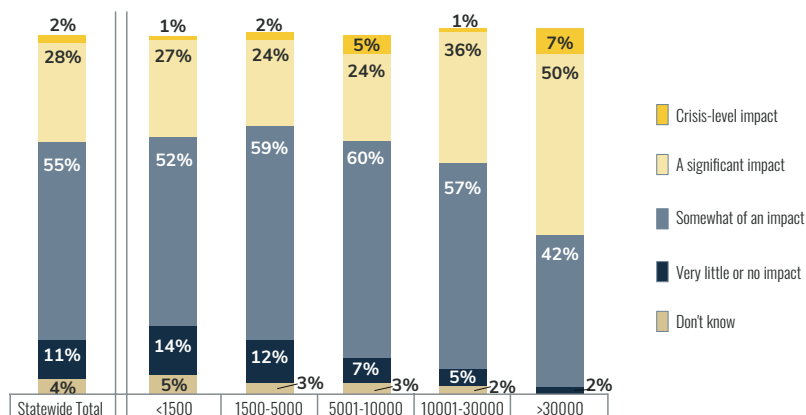
Ongoing impacts are correlated with community size. Among the state’s smallest jurisdictions—those with fewer than 1,500 residents—just over a quarter (28%) report significant (27%) or crisis-level (1%) impacts (see *Figure 2a*). Meanwhile, among Michigan’s largest jurisdictions—those with more than 30,000 residents—a majority (57%) report significant (50%) or crisis-level impacts (7%) from the COVID-19 pandemic as of spring 2021.

By jurisdiction type, county officials are by far the most likely to report significant (53%) or crisis-level (8%) impacts continuing in their jurisdictions in 2021 (see *Figure 2b*). Meanwhile, 41% of city officials, 30% of village officials, and 25% of township officials say their communities continue to suffer severe impacts of COVID-19 this year.

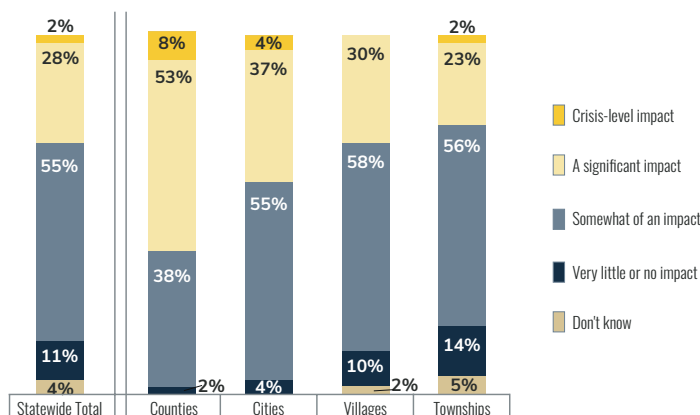
Regionally, as seen in *Figure 2c*, there is more consistency in reported impacts, with fewer than a third of jurisdictions in every region of the state reporting significant or crisis-level impacts, except in the Upper Peninsula (36%). Of particular note is Southeast Michigan, which had the state’s highest numbers of COVID-19 cases in 2020 and reported the most severe impacts at that time.<sup>6</sup> However, as of 2021, jurisdictions in the Southeast region are in line with most other regions, with 80% reporting only somewhat of an impact (64%) or very little to no impact (6%).

Data on assessments of year-long impacts of COVID-19 on the separate questionnaire categories broken out by jurisdiction size and region can be found in *Appendix A*.

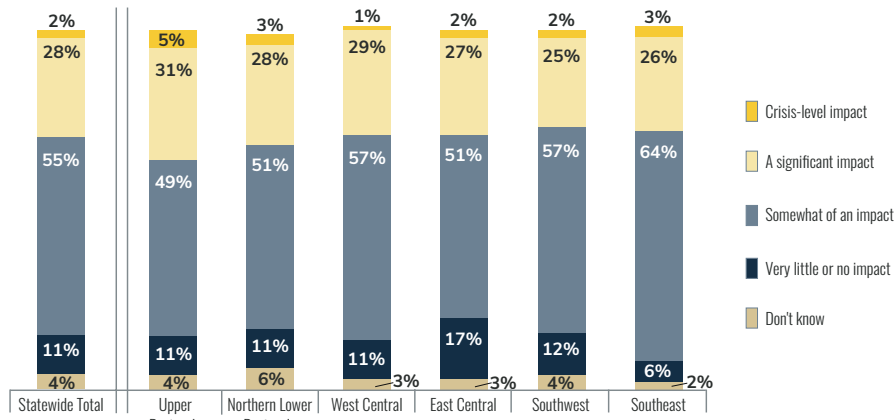
**Figure 2a** Local officials’ assessments of COVID-19 pandemic impacts on their local community overall in 2021, by population size



**Figure 2b** Local officials’ assessments of COVID-19 pandemic impacts on their local community overall in 2021, by jurisdiction type



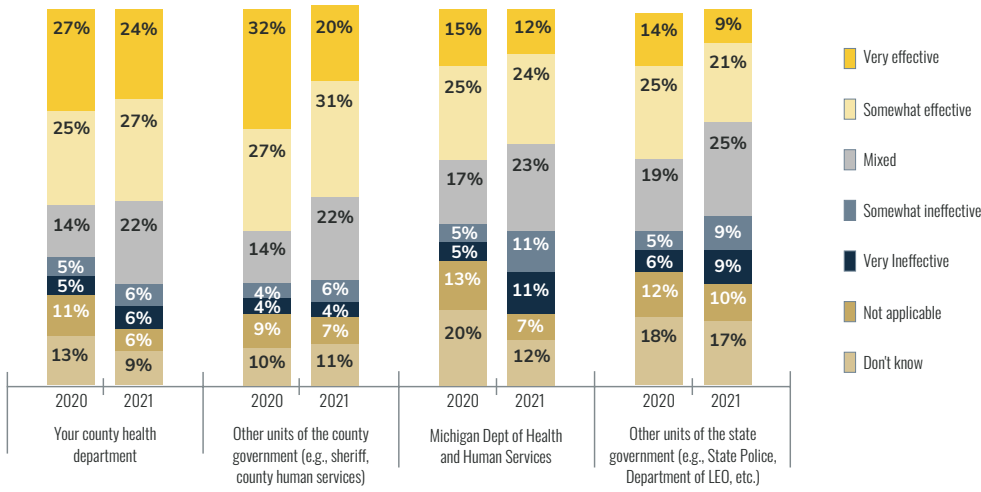
**Figure 2c** Local officials’ assessments of COVID-19 pandemic impacts on their local community overall in 2021, by region



# Effectiveness of coordination on COVID-19 pandemic reportedly declines over the past year

Unfortunately, local leaders statewide were slightly more skeptical about the effectiveness of pandemic-response coordination between their own government and other actors over the past year, compared with their assessments in 2020. For example, as shown in *Figure 3*, last year over half (52%) of local officials said their coordination with their county’s health department was effective, including 27% who said it was very effective, but that has dropped slightly to 51% today, including 24% who say it is very effective. Similarly, while 59% of local leaders in 2020 said coordination was effective with other units of their county government—such as the sheriff or human services—in 2021 that percentage drops to 51%. Meanwhile, this year 36% of local leaders statewide say coordination on COVID-19 with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has been effective, and 30% say they’ve had effective coordination with other state-level units, both also down from 2020.

**Figure 3**  
Local officials’ assessments of the effectiveness of coordination with other units of government in response to COVID-19, 2020-2021

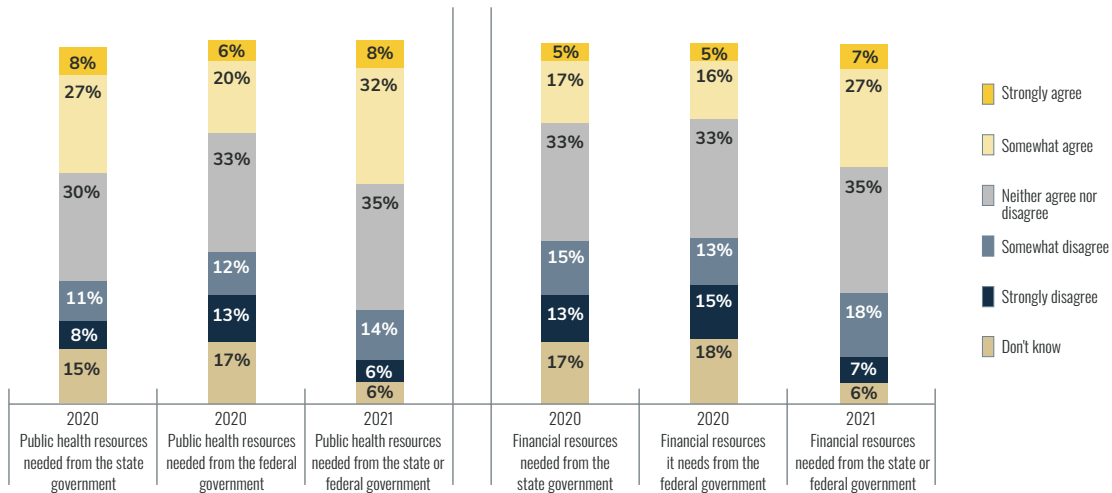


## While more jurisdictions report getting the public health and financial resources they need, most are underwhelmed

By contrast, the percentage of local leaders who say their jurisdictions are getting the resources they need to address COVID-19 has increased over the last year. As shown in *Figure 4*, 40% of local leaders this year agree their jurisdictions are getting the public health resources they need from the state or federal government, up from 2020 (which measured the aid from the state and federal governments separately). And, not surprisingly, many fewer—only 6% compared to 15-17% last year—are unsure, or “don’t know,” whether they are receiving the necessary resources from the state or federal governments. When it comes to financial aid, 34% currently say they are receiving the resources they need from the state and federal governments, up from 21-22% who said the same last year.

Despite these increases, the majority of Michigan local leaders do not agree that their local governments are receiving the public health or financial resources they need from the state and federal governments. This is true among jurisdictions of different sizes and across regions of the state.

**Figure 4**  
Percentage of local leaders who agree or disagree their jurisdictions have received the needed resources to address COVID-19, 2020-2021



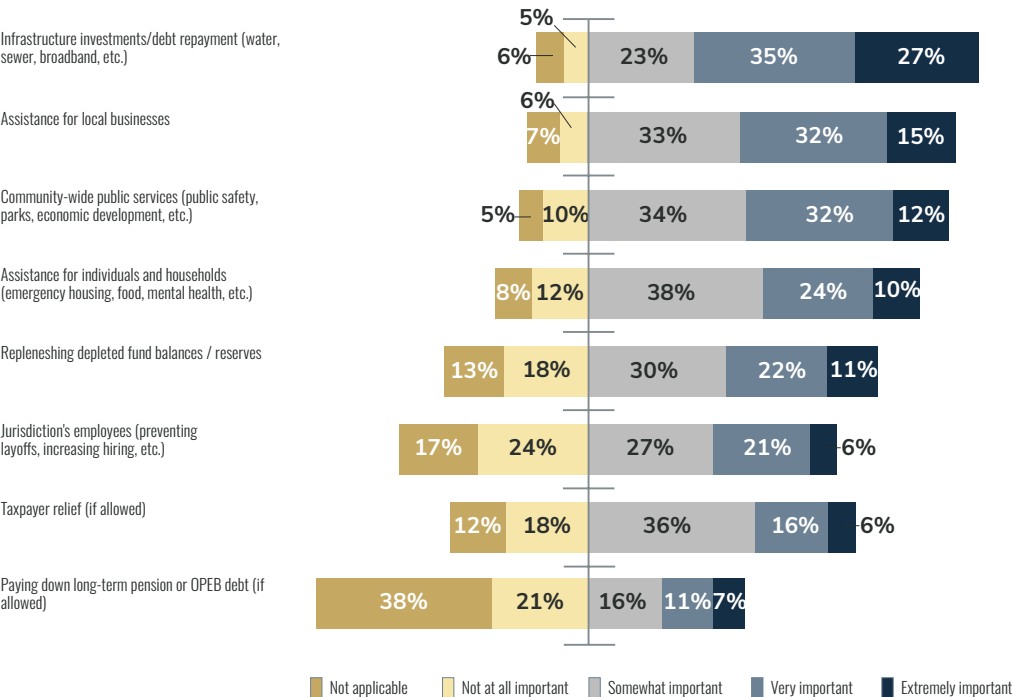
# Local leaders prioritize infrastructure for potential American Rescue Plan Act spending

In March 2021, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), which provided \$1.9 trillion to address effects of the pandemic. This included \$350 billion in aid to states, counties, cities, and tribal governments.<sup>7</sup> In Michigan, the funding that passed included \$6.5 billion to state government, \$1.9 billion to counties, \$1.8 billion to the state’s 49 largest cities, and \$644 million to townships, villages, and smaller cities.<sup>8</sup> The Spring 2021 MPPS asked local government officials to evaluate the importance of applying any funding that came to their jurisdiction toward eight possible areas of spending.

As shown in *Figure 5*, officials from 62% of Michigan jurisdictions statewide say it is extremely or very important to spend the money on infrastructure investments or infrastructure debt repayment (for example, water, sewer, broadband, etc.) in their jurisdiction. Meanwhile, almost half say it is extremely or very important to spend the money on assistance for local businesses (47%) and community-wide public services (44%). Approximately a third believe it is extremely or very important to spend the money on assistance for individuals or households (34%) and to replenish depleted fund balances or reserves (33%), while about one-quarter say it is equally important to spend the money on jurisdiction employees (27%). Fewer prioritize spending the money on taxpayer relief (22%) or on paying down long-term pension or OPEB debt (18%), although neither of these options are permitted based on restrictions in the ARPA, and the survey asked about prioritizing them “if they were allowed.”

There are some differences in priorities by jurisdiction type and by population size (see *Appendix B*). However, infrastructure investment / debt repayment was the most commonly identified as a very or extremely important area among jurisdictions of all sizes and types.

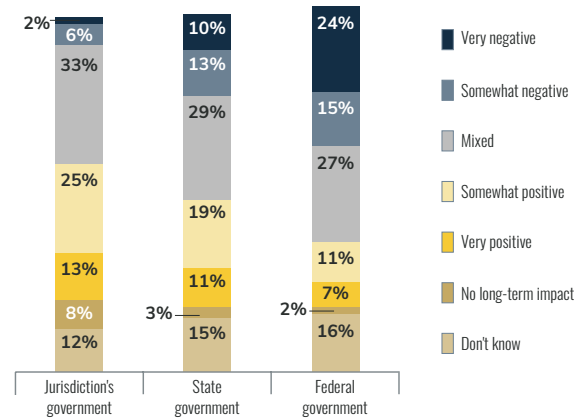
**Figure 5**  
Assessments of importance for targets of spending potential American Rescue Plan Act funds



Note: responses for “don’t know” not shown

The MPPS also asked local officials to look beyond any short-term assistance from the Rescue Act funding and indicate what long-term impact they expected from ARPA on the fiscal health of their own jurisdiction, of the state government here in Michigan, and on federal government fiscal health. Statewide, 38% of local officials expected a somewhat (25%) or very (13%) positive long-term impact on their own jurisdiction, while only 8% expected a negative impact (see *Figure 6*). However, concerns about negative impacts on fiscal health increased for the state government, with 23% of local leaders predicting long-term negative impacts on the state’s finances. Furthermore, 39% of local officials say they foresee somewhat (15%) or very (24%) negative long-term effects on the federal government’s long-term fiscal health from the ARPA.

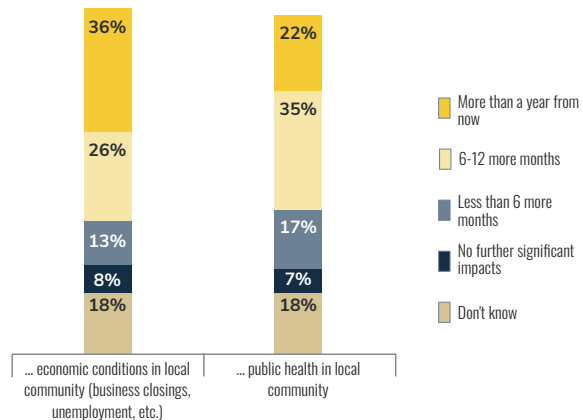
**Figure 6**  
Expectations of long-term impacts of American Rescue Plan Act on local, state, and federal governments’ fiscal health



## An increasing percentage of local leaders see pandemic impacts lasting long term

When the pandemic first struck Michigan in spring 2020, the MPPS asked local leaders to estimate— based on what they knew at the time— how long significant negative impacts from COVID-19 would likely persist. At that time, 27% of local leaders predicted negative impacts on the local economy would last over a year, and only 9% predicted year-long significant negative impacts on local public health.<sup>9</sup> After experiencing the persistence of the pandemic over the course of the past year, local leaders again were asked to estimate how much longer these effects would likely last in their communities. This year, local leaders are less optimistic. Statewide, 36% now believe that the negative impacts of COVID-19 on their local economies will continue for more than another year, and 22% say impacts on public health will persist that long as well (see *Figure 7*).

**Figure 7**  
Local officials’ predictions of how long significant negative impacts from COVID-19 will persist





## Some local governments discover “silver linings” in pandemic operations

Finally, the MPPS asked an open-ended question about their jurisdictions’ experiences with COVID-19. Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating impacts for many people, businesses, and communities across Michigan, local officials were asked whether their governments have also found any new and better ways to operate, provide services, support local businesses, etc., that would be valuable to carry forward into the future. Approximately 380 local leaders provided comments, with the responses touching on a wide array of issues. By far the most common mentions involve perceived improvements that have come from the expansion of online operations, including remote work for employees and officials, online service provision for residents, and more social media engagement. Other positive changes that local leaders see emerging from the experiences of the past year involve changes in election administration, the introduction of drive-up or drop-off options for residents and businesses, the importance of utilizing their jurisdiction’s natural and outdoor resources, and a general focus on empathy, cooperation, and positive civic relationships.

### Voices Across Michigan

Quotes from local leaders about new and better ways to operate, provide services, support local businesses, etc., that were introduced as a result of COVID-19

“County government has certainly made lasting changes for our employees. We allow remote work for many positions and the use of our technology has increased exponentially. We now offer all meetings virtually for the public which in turn makes getting county business out to the community a lot more efficient and we are more transparent.”

“We developed [REDACTED] services in which residents could transact almost any service including dog licenses, permits, bill paying, inspections, etc., online. The Building Department also developed virtual inspections using a variety of platforms to keep projects safe and on schedule. The City also developed a program wherein businesses could expand outdoor eating to patios or parking lots. City Council meetings were moved to a larger facility for in-person meetings, employees were provided lap top computers to work from home on rotating schedule and a volunteer corps was established to assist seniors. Most of these initiatives will be continued.”

“We have become more proficient in using technology, and previously reluctant board members have learned about the value of using technology for communications. This township does not have universal access to internet services.”

“It has forever changed the way we will hold elections. We will always use the sneeze guards, we will always do extra cleaning of voting stations, we will always mark for social distance - maybe not 6 feet, but we will keep people out of each other’s ‘space.’”

“We are operating a drive-up window for bill and tax paying, permit requests, absentee voting distribution, and any other township business when applicable. It has proven to be efficient and effective.”

“Installing glass over the front desk in our City Office lobby along with making hand sanitizer and masks available in the lobby are some permanent changes that we will carry forward. The use of virtual meetings, while an inconvenience initially, has proven to have a positive effect on public involvement in our Council and Board meetings, so that too will continue, at least to the extent allowed by the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Additionally, we temporarily closed a road in our downtown area to allow for expanded restaurant seating area and are considering making this a permanent closure (removing the asphalt and adding landscaping).”

“We are making better use of our office space and have converted our police cars into their own mobile squad rooms, increasing efficiency.”

“Empathy, compassion and caring. We at the Township level are closest to the people. Our adaptability became our strong point.”



## Conclusion

Michigan residents, communities, and local governments have been challenged in extraordinary ways throughout the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic. And although most local leaders in 2020 did not predict that their communities would continue to suffer so long from significant negative COVID-19 impacts, many are reporting in 2021 that indeed they are still struggling with a variety of problems stemming from the pandemic.

As of spring 2021, many local leaders continue to see significant and even crisis-level impacts from the pandemic, in particular on economic conditions in their communities (39%), on their residents' welfare including food security, mental health, job security, etc. (34%), and on local public health (31%). However, these percentages are down significantly from levels reported at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.

And although local leaders' assessments regarding the effectiveness of coordination between their governments and other entities have declined since the beginning of the crisis in 2020, few believe coordination is outright ineffective with their county government or with state government entities.

Meanwhile, one year into the pandemic, after numerous state and federal efforts to provide targeted aid to local governments, the majority of Michigan's local leaders do not agree that they have received the resources from the state or federal government that they need to respond to the crisis. Only 40% say they have received the necessary public health resources and 34% agree they have received the resources to meet their financial needs. Looking specifically at funding that may come to local jurisdictions through the American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA), local leaders most commonly say it is important to prioritize infrastructure investments or infrastructure debt repayment (for example, water, sewer, broadband, etc.), as well as local business and community investment. And while many local leaders believe ARPA funds will have long-term positive impacts on their own jurisdictions' local fiscal health, many are concerned about the legislation's negative impacts on state and federal government finances in the long term.

And yet, despite all the challenges and lingering negative impacts of the pandemic, some local leaders identified positive lessons their jurisdictions have learned that they plan to incorporate into their government operations in the future, particularly ones related to technology, such as remote work and service provision, and resident engagement through virtual meetings and social media.

## Notes

1. State of Michigan Executive Order 2020-21. (2020, March 23). Temporary requirement to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. Retrieved from [https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499\\_90705-522626--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-522626--,00.html)
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9. Horner, Ivacko, & Fitzpatrick. (2020, June).



## Survey Background and Methodology

The MPPS is an ongoing survey program, interviewing the leaders of Michigan's 1,856 units of general purpose local government, conducted by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the University of Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, and Michigan Association of Counties. Surveys are conducted each spring (and prior to 2018, were also conducted each fall). The program has covered a wide range of policy topics and includes longitudinal tracking data on “core” fiscal, budgetary and operational policy questions and designed to build-up a multi-year time-series.

In the Spring 2021 iteration, surveys were sent by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) via the internet and hardcopy to top elected and appointed officials (including county administrators and board chairs; city mayors and managers; village presidents, clerks, and managers; and township supervisors, clerks, and managers) from all 83 counties, 280 cities, 253 villages, and 1,240 townships in the state of Michigan.

The Spring 2021 wave was conducted from April 5 – June 7, 2021. A total of 1,364 jurisdictions in the Spring 2021 wave returned valid surveys (67 counties, 208 cities,

173 villages, and 916 townships), resulting in a 73% response rate by unit. The margin of error for the survey for the survey as a whole is +/- 1.37%. The key relationships discussed in the above report are statistically significant at the  $p < .05$  level or below, unless otherwise specified. Missing responses are not included in the tabulations, unless otherwise specified. Some report figures may not add to 100% due to rounding within response categories. Quantitative data are weighted to account for non-response. “Voices Across Michigan” verbatim responses, when included, may have been edited for clarity and brevity. Contact CLOSUP staff for more information.

Detailed tables of the data analyzed in this report broken down three ways—by jurisdiction type (county, city, township, or village); by population size of the respondent's community, and by the region of the respondent's jurisdiction—will be available online at the MPPS homepage: [closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey](https://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey)

*The survey responses presented here are those of local Michigan officials, while further analysis represents the views of the authors. Neither necessarily reflects the views of the University of Michigan, or of other partners in the MPPS.*

## Appendix A

Local officials' assessments of a variety of possible COVID-19 impacts, 2021, by population size

		Population <1500	Population 1500-5000	Population 5001-10000	Population 10001-30000	Population >30000	Total Statewide
Public health in your community	Very little or no impact at all	20%	19%	6%	7%	1%	16%
	Somewhat of an impact	38%	38%	41%	34%	24%	37%
	A significant impact	31%	31%	40%	43%	55%	34%
	Crisis-level impact	5%	7%	9%	13%	19%	8%
	Don't know	6%	5%	3%	3%	1%	5%
Schools in your community	Very little or no impact at all	5%	4%	1%	1%	0%	3%
	Somewhat of an impact	7%	6%	5%	9%	3%	6%
	A significant impact	64%	64%	54%	55%	57%	62%
	Crisis-level impact	21%	24%	38%	34%	37%	26%
	Don't know	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Economic conditions in your community (businesses closing, unemployment, etc.)	Very little or no impact at all	3%	2%	2%	1%	0%	2%
	Somewhat of an impact	13%	10%	4%	2%	1%	9%
	A significant impact	53%	52%	54%	44%	32%	51%
	Crisis-level impact	28%	33%	39%	52%	67%	35%
	Don't know	3%	3%	1%	2%	0%	2%
Your residents' welfare (food security, mental health, job security, etc.)	Very little or no impact at all	4%	3%	2%	0%	0%	3%
	Somewhat of an impact	26%	21%	19%	27%	7%	22%
	A significant impact	51%	57%	54%	44%	58%	53%
	Crisis-level impact	15%	15%	21%	26%	35%	17%
	Don't know	4%	4%	5%	3%	0%	4%
Local or regional emergency response capability (police/sheriff, EMS, hospitals, etc.)	Very little or no impact at all	16%	15%	11%	9%	4%	14%
	Somewhat of an impact	38%	36%	44%	35%	30%	37%
	A significant impact	30%	36%	31%	38%	49%	34%
	Crisis-level impact	8%	9%	11%	15%	16%	9%
	Don't know	8%	5%	2%	2%	1%	5%
Continuity of your jurisdiction's public services	Very little or no impact at all	26%	21%	20%	5%	7%	20%
	Somewhat of an impact	46%	40%	36%	40%	23%	41%
	A significant impact	23%	33%	37%	46%	62%	32%
	Crisis-level impact	3%	4%	7%	9%	9%	5%
	Don't know	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	2%
Continuity of your jurisdiction government's operations	Very little or no impact at all	19%	17%	16%	4%	6%	16%
	Somewhat of an impact	48%	43%	37%	42%	33%	44%
	A significant impact	28%	36%	44%	46%	51%	35%
	Crisis-level impact	4%	4%	3%	8%	10%	5%
	Don't know	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Overall impact on your community	Very little or no impact at all	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%	3%
	Somewhat of an impact	32%	30%	21%	17%	9%	28%
	A significant impact	51%	54%	62%	59%	61%	55%
	Crisis-level impact	9%	10%	16%	21%	30%	12%
	Don't know	3%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%
Overall impact on Michigan	Very little or no impact at all	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
	Somewhat of an impact	3%	4%	4%	1%	0%	3%
	A significant impact	42%	45%	38%	48%	32%	43%
	Crisis-level impact	50%	47%	56%	48%	68%	50%
	Don't know	4%	4%	3%	3%	0%	3%

## Appendix A – continued

Local officials' assessments of a variety of possible COVID-19 impacts, 2021, by population region

		Upper Peninsula	Northern Lower Peninsula	West Central Lower Peninsula	East Central Lower Peninsula	Southwest Lower Peninsula	Total Statewide
Public health in your community	Very little or no impact at all	18%	16%	19%	20%	15%	16%
	Somewhat of an impact	36%	35%	35%	38%	40%	37%
	A significant impact	35%	35%	36%	32%	30%	34%
	Crisis-level impact	9%	8%	3%	7%	7%	8%
	Don't know	2%	6%	6%	2%	7%	5%
Schools in your community	Very little or no impact at all	4%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%
	Somewhat of an impact	2%	4%	8%	7%	9%	6%
	A significant impact	72%	62%	58%	67%	61%	62%
	Crisis-level impact	21%	27%	27%	22%	25%	26%
	Don't know	1%	3%	4%	0%	4%	3%
Economic conditions in your community (businesses closing, unemployment, etc.)	Very little or no impact at all	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%
	Somewhat of an impact	8%	6%	11%	12%	10%	9%
	A significant impact	59%	49%	49%	51%	52%	51%
	Crisis-level impact	31%	40%	36%	33%	31%	35%
	Don't know	1%	2%	2%	1%	4%	2%
Your residents' welfare (food security, mental health, job security, etc.)	Very little or no impact at all	5%	2%	2%	4%	4%	3%
	Somewhat of an impact	23%	22%	23%	23%	21%	22%
	A significant impact	54%	53%	54%	55%	54%	53%
	Crisis-level impact	15%	20%	16%	16%	15%	17%
	Don't know	3%	3%	5%	2%	6%	4%
Local or regional emergency response capability (police/sheriff, EMS, hospitals, etc.)	Very little or no impact at all	15%	13%	12%	17%	15%	14%
	Somewhat of an impact	35%	38%	38%	35%	41%	37%
	A significant impact	34%	32%	33%	38%	29%	34%
	Crisis-level impact	10%	10%	10%	7%	8%	9%
	Don't know	6%	7%	6%	3%	7%	5%
Continuity of your jurisdiction's public services	Very little or no impact at all	20%	16%	21%	25%	22%	20%
	Somewhat of an impact	46%	49%	43%	37%	37%	41%
	A significant impact	30%	30%	30%	33%	34%	32%
	Crisis-level impact	3%	2%	5%	4%	4%	5%
	Don't know	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%
Continuity of your jurisdiction government's operations	Very little or no impact at all	13%	15%	18%	22%	13%	16%
	Somewhat of an impact	52%	47%	41%	40%	45%	44%
	A significant impact	31%	32%	36%	35%	38%	35%
	Crisis-level impact	3%	3%	5%	3%	4%	5%
	Don't know	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Overall impact on your community	Very little or no impact at all	4%	3%	2%	6%	3%	3%
	Somewhat of an impact	28%	26%	29%	30%	28%	28%
	A significant impact	54%	59%	55%	52%	57%	55%
	Crisis-level impact	13%	10%	11%	12%	9%	12%
	Don't know	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%
Overall impact on Michigan	Very little or no impact at all	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
	Somewhat of an impact	4%	2%	3%	5%	5%	3%
	A significant impact	38%	40%	44%	45%	45%	43%
	Crisis-level impact	54%	53%	48%	49%	48%	50%
	Don't know	4%	4%	5%	1%	2%	3%

## Appendix B

Assessments of importance for targets of spending potential American Rescue Plan Act funds, 2021, by population size

Percent responding very or extremely important						
	<1500	1500-5,000	5001-10,000	10,001-30,000	>30,000	Total Statewide
Assistance for individuals	37%	31%	23%	28%	44%	34%
Assistance for local businesses	48%	49%	34%	46%	54%	47%
Community-wide public services	39%	44%	45%	56%	62%	44%
Infrastructure investment / debt repayment	54%	61%	68%	75%	75%	62%
Jurisdiction's employees	23%	23%	31%	41%	46%	27%
Replenishing depleted fund balances / reserves	36%	29%	32%	34%	51%	33%
Paying down long-term pension or OPEB debt (if allowed)	12%	13%	23%	39%	55%	18%
Taxpayer relief (if allowed)	24%	22%	18%	15%	27%	22%

Assessments of importance for targets of spending potential American Rescue Plan Act funds, 2021, by jurisdiction type

Percent responding very or extremely important					
	County	Township	City	Village	Total Statewide
Assistance for individuals	36%	33%	30%	43%	34%
Assistance for local businesses	44%	43%	52%	60%	47%
Community-wide public services	54%	38%	60%	53%	44%
Infrastructure investment / debt repayment	73%	55%	79%	68%	62%
Jurisdiction's employees	40%	21%	40%	35%	27%
Replenishing depleted fund balances / reserves	49%	29%	39%	48%	33%
Paying down long-term pension or OPEB debt (if allowed)	60%	11%	42%	19%	18%
Taxpayer relief (if allowed)	30%	21%	21%	24%	22%



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University of Michigan

**Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy**

**Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy**

Joan and Sanford Weill Hall

735 S. State Street, Suite 5310

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-3091

The Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP), housed at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, conducts and supports applied policy research designed to inform state, local, and urban policy issues. Through integrated research, teaching, and outreach involving academic researchers, students, policymakers and practitioners, CLOSUP seeks to foster understanding of today's state and local policy problems, and to find effective solutions to those problems.

web: [www.closup.umich.edu](http://www.closup.umich.edu)

email: [closup@umich.edu](mailto:closup@umich.edu)

twitter: @closup

phone: 734-647-4091



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**Regents of the University of Michigan**

**Jordan B. Acker**  
Huntington Woods

**Michael J. Behm**  
Grand Blanc

**Mark J. Bernstein**  
Ann Arbor

**Paul W. Brown**  
Ann Arbor

**Sarah Hubbard**  
Okemos

**Denise Ilitch**  
Bingham Farms

**Ron Weiser**  
Ann Arbor

**Katherine E. White**  
Ann Arbor

**Mark S. Schlissel**  
(ex officio)