



Addressing Economic Insecurity – Laying the Foundation for Future Success

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Applying Lessons Learned from the HHHS Response to COVID-19





- People of color and low-income families more vulnerable to COVID-19 infection and more susceptible to the negative social and economic impacts of the pandemic
- Language access and lack of trust limited access to relief and resources and necessitated adapting standard service models
- Using a data-informed, multi-departmental/cross-sectoral approach, HHHS is using the lessons gained in a COVID environment to inform policy and practice in recovery and beyond

COMMUNITY PROVIDER COORDINATING TEAM

SURVEY SUMMARY

Community providers reported serving communities experiencing many different types of challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than half of community providers (51%) reported that they have been serving all segments of the population given unemployment/job loss and subsequent income loss across the board. With eviction prevention policies quickly changing, there is a growing concern to increase support for those at risk for eviction.

 Community characteristics	 Financial instability	 Housing insecurity	 Other basic needs
Racial/ethnic minorities Immigrants/refugees Limited or no English language proficiency Limited or no access to technology/digital literacy Inability or fear to seek services Ineligibility for public assistance Working families with children Seniors; Women	Unemployment, job loss, job insecurity Income loss Low wage earnings Financial stress	Homeless unable to access public services Increased risk for eviction Overcrowded multi-household / multi-generational families	Food insecurity Lack of childcare Health care needs; pre-existing medical conditions Special needs Mental health needs Domestic violence, abuse, neglect

Point # 1

Economic disadvantage

Community members who were already economically disadvantaged prior to the pandemic are bearing much of the negative impacts of the socioeconomic crisis due to their limited resources to meet basic needs, primarily for housing and food security.

Point # 2

Racial/ethnic disparities

More than any other groups, racial and ethnic minorities—primarily Hispanics/ Latinos and African Americans—were mentioned as particularly high-risk groups in terms of the burden of disease and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

Point # 3

Limited access to services

People with limited access to technology and/or digital literacy are also some of the most affected groups, especially in a time when all information, services, and resources are provided virtually.

Key insights from the County's response to Housing

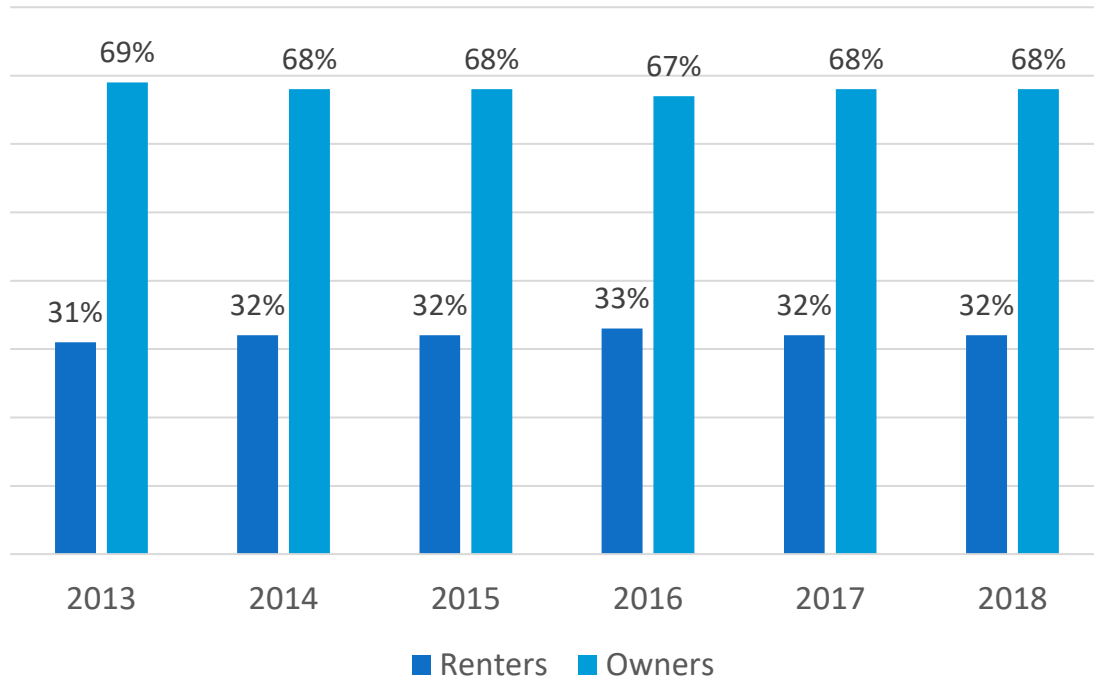
Housing Insecurity

- Challenges paying rent
- Overcrowding
- Moving frequently, staying with relatives
- Spending the bulk of household income on housing
 - Targeting Eviction Prevention
 - Use of Data to Apply Housing Resources

Housing Occupancy and Cost Burden

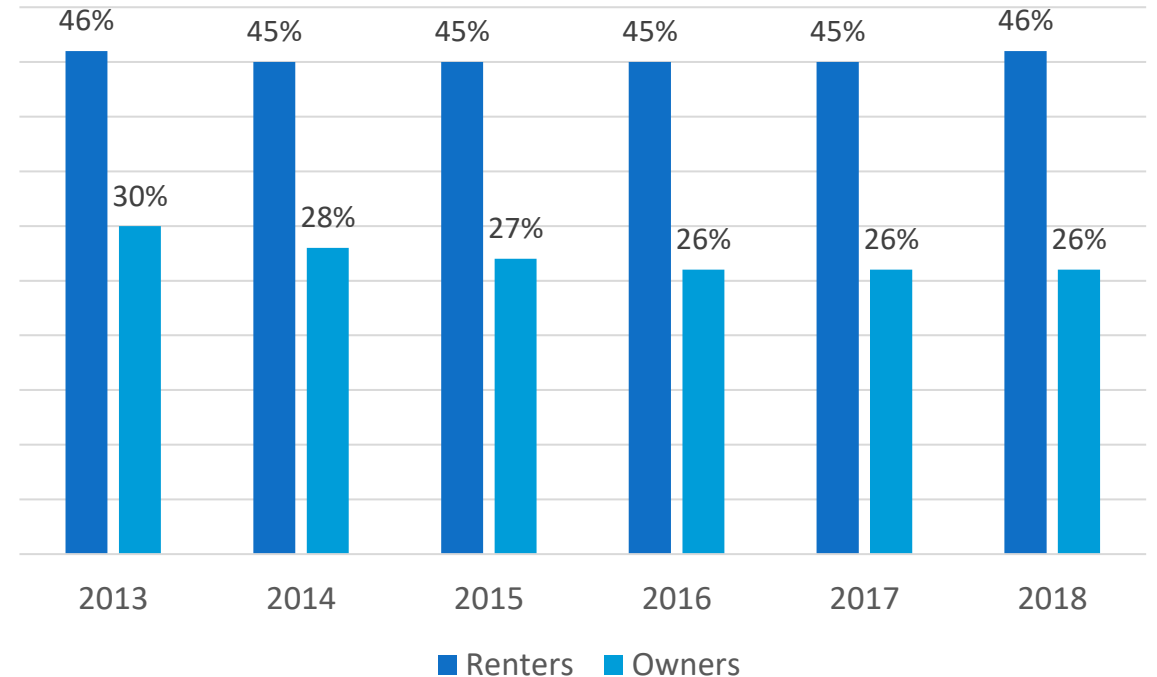
Percentage of Housing Units Occupied by Owners and Renters, 2018

2018 n = 268,346 owners; 126,101 renters



Percentage of Households Spending 30% or More of Income on Housing, 2018

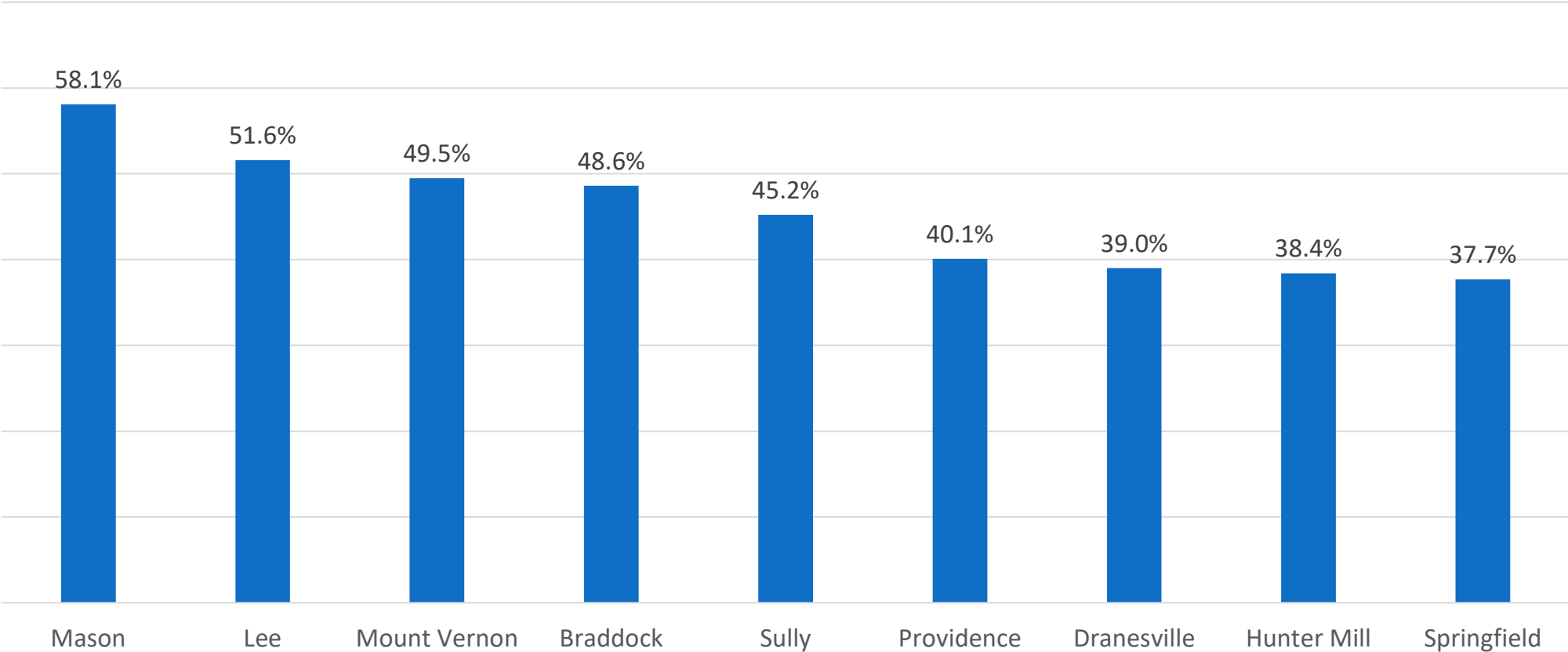
2018 n = 53,508 owners; 55,473 renters



Source: American Community Survey 2018 5-year estimates

Rental Housing Cost Burden by Supervisor District

Rental Housing Cost at Least 30% of Income by Supervisor District, 2018



Source: American Community Survey 2018 5-year estimates

Key insights from the County's response to Food Insecurity

- Food providers are anticipating:
 - Reductions in funding from donors
 - Reduction in volunteers to support traditional service models
- There are clear trends in terms of who is presenting with the greatest needs:
 - Children, Youth, and Families
 - Those ineligible for public benefits
 - Latinx
- CPCT Food Access Committee has initiated a comprehensive and collaborative Food Access Strategic Plan to develop a plan and infrastructure to ensure equitable access to affordable, fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate food.

Example of a Targeted Response to address Food Insecurity

Equitable Food Access & Economic Relief Pilot Program

- Addresses food access inequities in culturally and religiously diverse communities while providing economic support to local small businesses impacted by the pandemic
- Cross-sector partnership between the County, food business accelerator and incubator, Frontier Kitchen, nonprofits FACETS and ICNA Relief, is serving families prepared meals and grocery bags with an assortment of basic staples, dry ingredients, and fresh produce through a contact free weekend distribution
- Supported initially by the Human Services Council's Innovation Fund. Currently assessing the pilot's viability and potential for long term sustainability



FACETS van loaded up with meals and grocery bags for distribution to families at Ragan Oaks Apartments.

Addressing Economic Insecurity

- Economic insecurity - *lacking stable income or other resources to support a standard of living now and in the foreseeable future* – is at the root of food and housing issues and other basic needs challenges
- It impacts a broad spectrum of the community
 - Those in persistent and structural poverty and precarious economic circumstances
 - Those in low and middle-income groups
 - Those who self-identify as ‘just about managing’ and those often labeled as ‘ordinary working families’
- Economic insecurity is not just about lacking income but is also about building assets, resilience, adaptability, confidence and support networks



The Key is a Focus on Economic Mobility

- Not addressing differences in mobility can exacerbate differences in other areas such as in housing, education, and health and limit potential for overall economic growth
- Exploring structural remedies such as equitable housing and educational opportunities, better income security and wealth accumulation, and encouraging the development of amenities to improve infrastructure in the poorest neighborhoods

