

# HOLMES COUNTY

## Housing & Transportation Survey

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

491 Responses • June 2026 • Holmes County Housing Coalition

### Purpose & Who Responded

The Holmes County Housing Coalition launched this survey to understand housing and transportation challenges affecting residents, workers, employers, and service providers and to identify practical, community-driven solutions. With 491 responses through June 2026, the data paints a clear and urgent picture.

|                               |                                       |                                       |                                                  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>491</b><br>total responses | <b>87.6%</b><br>live in the community | <b>56.6%</b><br>work in the community | <b>16.5%</b><br>represent a business or employer |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

### The Top-Line Numbers

|                                                                                                |                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>95.1%</b><br>describe housing as limited, unaffordable, or having quality concerns          | <b>73.5%</b><br>not confident they could find suitable housing in Holmes County today          |
| <b>65.6%</b><br>personally know someone who struggled to find or keep housing in the past year | <b>76.2%</b><br>say affordable means under \$1,000/month, the \$500-\$749 range is most common |

### Affordability Is the Core Problem

Residents are not describing a niche problem. Nearly three in four say "affordable" means under \$1,000/month and nearly half say under \$750. That gap between what people can pay and what the market offers is the defining housing crisis in Holmes County.

| Top Housing Challenges             | Proportion of 491 Respondents | %     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Not enough affordable options      | <div><div></div></div>        | 78%   |
| High rent or purchase prices       | <div><div></div></div>        | 74.7% |
| Limited options for young families | <div><div></div></div>        | 68.8% |
| Poor conditions / need for repairs | <div><div></div></div>        | 40.7% |
| Limited options for seniors        | <div><div></div></div>        | 35.8% |
| Lack of accessible housing         | <div><div></div></div>        | 23.2% |

*“Homeless clients have had to go to Wooster for resources and shelters, causing their children to switch schools, and the adults lose jobs.”*

*“In Holmes County, the community puts emphasis on staying close and in contact with family and friends, yet the housing issues mean some might have to move away just to find an affordable dwelling.”*

*“We gave up trying to own a home as prices are way too high and we couldn’t even fathom a down payment. But our rent continues to go up every single year.”*

## What the Community Is Asking For

### Housing Priorities

| Housing Type Needed                         | Respondents Identifying This as a Need                                              | %     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Single-family homes for purchase            |    | 76.2% |
| Affordable rental housing                   |    | 73.3% |
| Emergency housing                           |    | 37.5% |
| Senior / assisted living                    |    | 36.3% |
| Transitional housing                        |    | 32%   |
| Multi-family apartments or townhomes        |   | 31.8% |
| Supportive housing (mental health/recovery) |  | 29.1% |
| Workforce housing                           |  | 27.3% |
| Accessible housing for disabilities         |  | 25.4% |

## Impact on Employers & the Local Economy

16.5% of respondents represent a business or employer, the highest of any sub-group. Their responses are consistent: workers can't find housing in Holmes County, so they commute from outside the county or don't come at all.

### Employers Are Saying:

*“Housing costs too much for the amount of money local businesses are willing to pay employees.”*

*“I have to employ people from outside the county. It makes it hard to find skilled laborers because they can’t live here.”*

*“A lack of affordable local housing makes it difficult to find and retain employees.”*

### The Bottom Line:

- Workers commute from Coshocton, Dover, and Canton because Holmes County has no affordable options
- Young professionals won't invest in a community they can't afford to live in
- Employees call off or arrive late due to vehicle problems, with no backup transportation options
- Employees living with parents or out of county because there is no housing available

## Transportation Gaps Compound Every Challenge

Holmes County has no public transportation system. Without transit options, car trouble becomes a direct path from missed work to lost income to housing instability, a cycle with no off-ramp.

**62.3%**

say no public transportation options exist in their area

**40.9%**

cite cost of car repairs or ownership as a barrier

**40.1%**

cite lack of transport for seniors & people with disabilities

**44.8%**

know someone who misses work or appointments due to transportation

*“My aunt, who is 50 years old, has to walk to work every day because reliable transportation isn’t always available. It limits her options for jobs that are farther away.”*

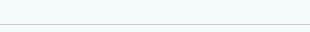
*“I work with people with disabilities who cannot get jobs because they have no way to get to and from work.”*

### Transportation Solutions People Would Use

| If Available Locally, Would You Use This? | %                                                                                   | %     |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Community shuttle or bus                  |    | 38.9% |
| Delivery or mobile services               |    | 33.2% |
| Bike & walking trail connections          |   | 26.7% |
| Rideshare or carpool network              |  | 22.8% |
| Volunteer driver program                  |  | 20.5% |

When asked about a reasonable fare from Downtown Millersburg to Walmart, the median response was **\$5.00** consistent across 292 responses, suggesting real willingness to pay for a modest, reliable shuttle.

### Who Is Most Affected

| Group                                    | Identified by Respondents as Most Impacted                                          | %     |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Low-income households                    |  | 78%   |
| Families with young children             |  | 68.6% |
| Single parents                           |  | 63.3% |
| Seniors / older adults                   |  | 59.3% |
| People with disabilities                 |  | 47.7% |
| Individuals experiencing homelessness    |  | 42.8% |
| Youth and young adults                   |  | 37.7% |
| People in recovery / mental health needs |  | 34.2% |
| Veterans                                 |  | 27.3% |

## Voices from the Survey

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*“My former partner was put in prison, which left me homeless as a stay-at-home mom. I had to go to Love INC because there are zero housing options, and I’m financially supporting four kids alone.”*

*“I live in Coshocton County because of prices in Holmes County. I see co-workers call off for vehicle problems frequently and I hear of others living in different towns due to availability and cost.”*

*“My grandchildren would like to live in the Millersburg/Berlin area. They can’t afford to. They’re just starting life and family. It’s so sad they have to keep renting.”*

*“People end up in the ER for routine medical management because they can’t get to appointments. Lack of transportation drives people to the most expensive care.”*

The Holmes County Housing Coalition is bringing together residents, employers, faith communities, local government, and service providers to turn this data into real action. Every voice matters. Every seat at the table counts.

[www.hchousingcoalition.org](http://www.hchousingcoalition.org) | [facebook.com/holmescountyhousingcoalition](https://facebook.com/holmescountyhousingcoalition)