# Patients Depend on Rural Hospitals

## Community

1 out of 5 people live in rural areas of the U.S.

14% of total rural employment is attributed to the health sector.

These Americans are scattered over 90% of the country.

## Hospitals are the Largest or Second Largest Employer in Most Rural Communities.

## Challenges

- Extreme distances, challenging geography, and weather complicate health care delivery.
- Rural Americans are older, poorer, and sicker than their urban counterparts.
- Millions of rural Americans have limited access to a primary care provider.

## Impact of Closure

- Patients lose access to timely and essential care.
- Local economy experiences a severe decline.
- Physicians, pharmacies, and other health providers will also leave the community.

## It’s Time to Act

Medicare Dependent Hospital (MDH) Payment and Low-Volume Hospital (LVH) Adjustment will expire in September 2022.

The extension of these critical programs are key to the prevention of future hospital closures.

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