## PATIENTS DEPEND ON RURAL HOSPITALS

COMMUNITY iii

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.

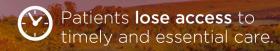


Rural Americans are older, poorer, and sicker than their urban counterparts.



Millions of rural Americans have limited access to a primary care provider.

## **IMPACT OF CLOSURE**





Local economy experiences a severe decline.



Physicians, pharmacies, and other health providers will also leave the community.

**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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