Rural Hospitals are Essential to the Health and Economic Well-being of the Community

As challenges facing rural hospitals intensify, accumulate and compound each other, many confront difficult decisions, including whether to reduce services or even close. Moreover, today’s issues may hinder rural providers’ preparedness for the challenges of tomorrow. Between 2010 and 2018, 95 rural hospitals have closed, and several of these closures have resulted in a complete loss of local access to care.

Recommendations for Action
Update Federal Policies and Invest in Rural Communities

» Ensure fair and adequate reimbursement
» Support new models of care
» Bolster the workforce
» Remove red tape
» Support health information technology
» Rein in prescription drug prices

For more information, visit www.aha.org/rural.