



Improving Access to Quality Medical Care Webinar Series

Presented by

Arizona Telemedicine Program, Southwest Telehealth Resource Center, Arizona Rural Health Association, the Arizona Center for Rural Health and the National Rural Health Association



**ARIZONA
TELEMEDICINE
PROGRAM**



**SOUTHWEST
TELEHEALTH
RESOURCE CENTER**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health

Welcome

- AZ, UT, CO, NM & NV FLEX Programs
- Arizona Rural Health Association Members
- Fellow Rural Health Association Members
- Telehealth Resource Center Members
- All other participants





The **Arizona Rural Health Association** & the **Southwest Telehealth Resource Center** welcomes you to this free webinar on the implementation & practice of telemedicine.

The practice & deliver of healthcare is changing, with an emphasis on **improving quality, safety, efficiency, & access to care.**

Telemedicine can help you achieve these goals!



**ARIZONA
TELEMEDICINE
PROGRAM**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health



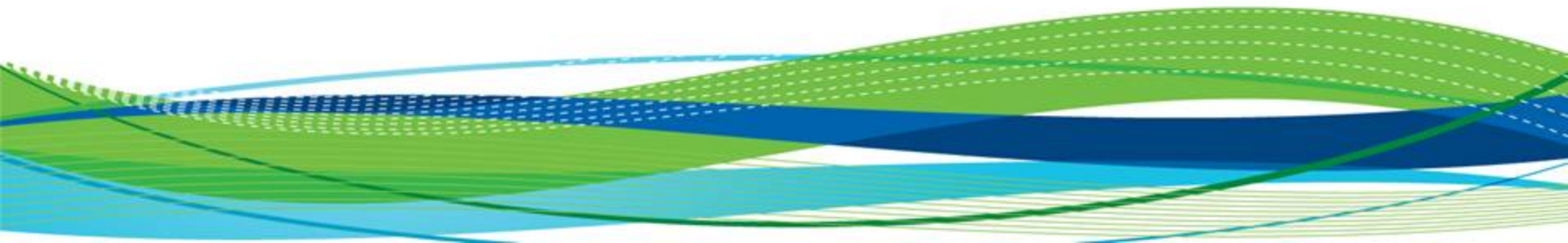
Your voice. Louder.

Webinar Tips & Notes



- Mute your phone &/or computer microphone
- Time is reserved at the end for Q&A
- Please fill out the post-webinar survey
- Webinar is being recorded
- The recording and webinar recordings can be found on our website

<http://www.telemedicine.arizona.edu/distant-education/upcoming-workshops>





“2019 Mid-Year Rural Health Policy Roundup”



Alan Morgan
Chief Executive Officer
*National Rural Health
Association (NRHA)*



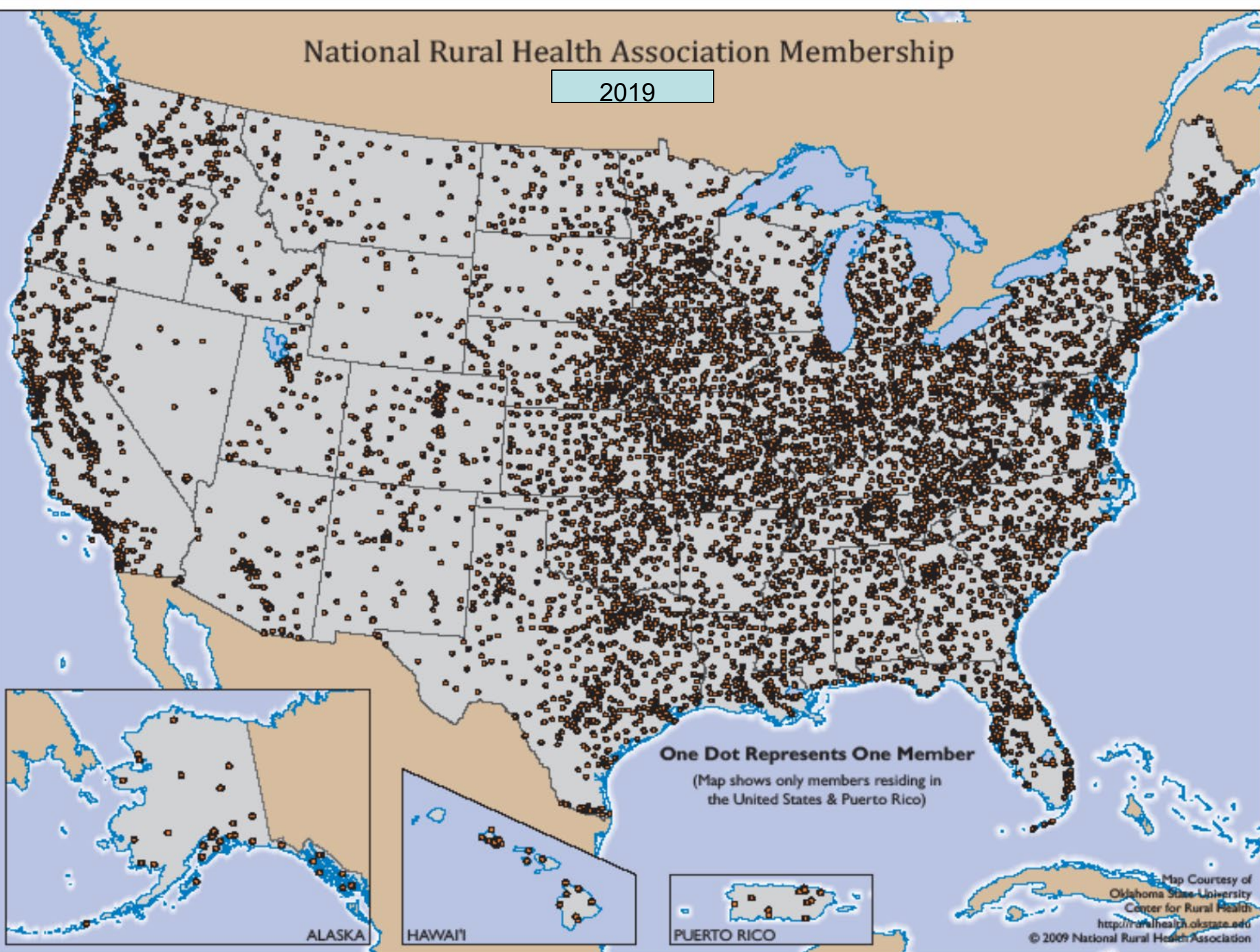
**ARIZONA
TELEMEDICINE
PROGRAM**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health

National Rural Health Association Membership

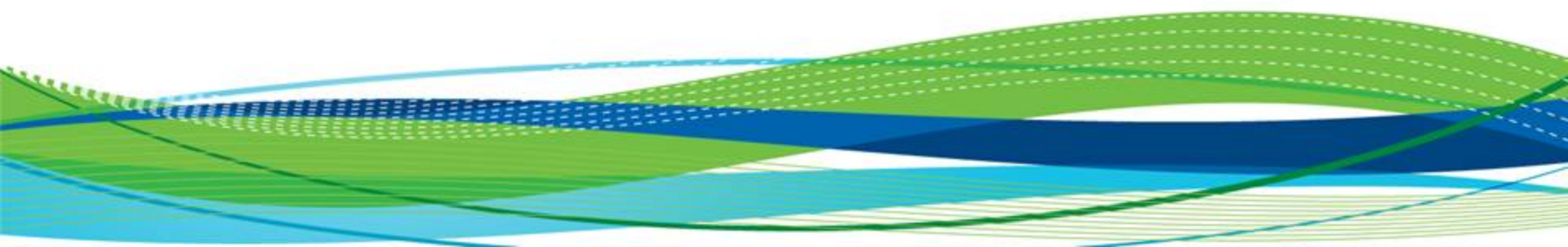
2019



The State of Rural America



- **Workforce Shortages**
- **Vulnerable Populations**
- **Chronic Poverty**

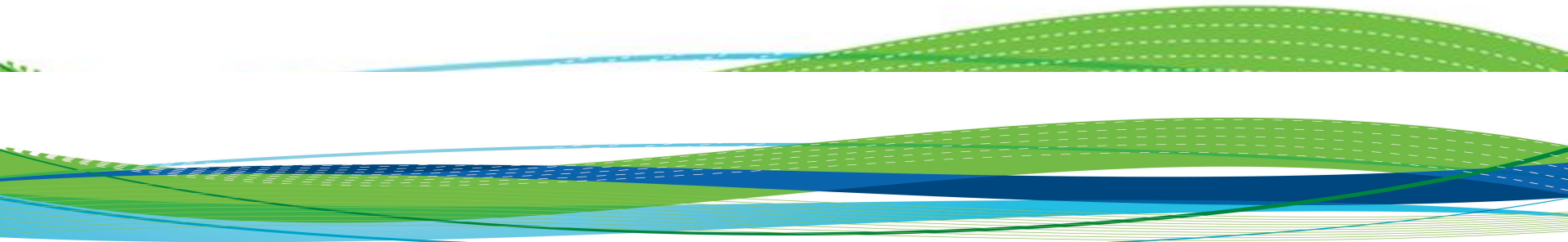


Ways & Means:

- Rural Health Task Force; Reps. Arrington (R-TX), Wenstrup (R-OH), Davis (D-IL), Sewell (D-AL)

Agriculture:

- Focusing on expanding broadband.



Senate Appropriations:

- Markup?

Finance:

- Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act (PDPRA) of 2019
- S. 1037 - Rural Health Clinic Modernization Act of 2019 (Sen. John Barrasso)
- S. 2157 – Rural Hospital Sustainability Act of 2019 (Sen. Robert Casey)

HELP:

- S. 1895 – Lower Health Care Costs Act of 2019 ('Surprise Billing')
- S. 2373 – Rural MOMS Act re-introduction (Sen. Tina Smith)
 - *Requested NRHA send them a list of programs that could be expanded to improve rural health

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley stated that his goal is for the Finance Committee to pass a rural health care package before the end of the year.

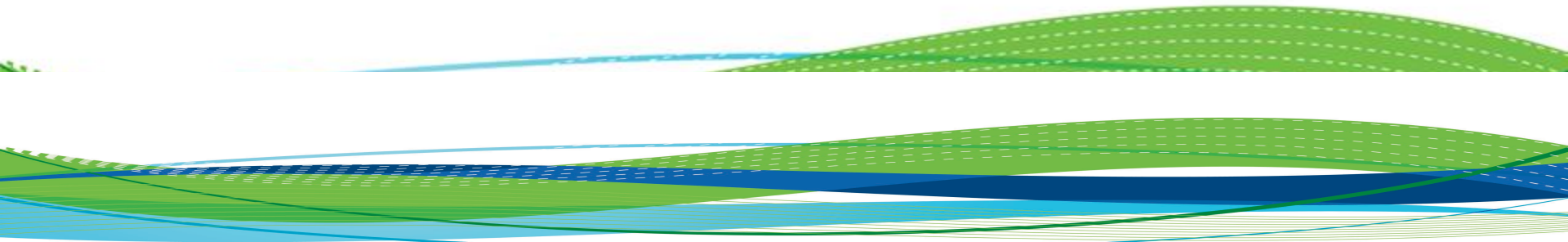
NRHA Requests:

Stop the Rural Hospital Closure Crisis

Stop the Rural Health Clinic Closure Crisis

Support Legislation to Ease Health Workforce Shortages in Rural America

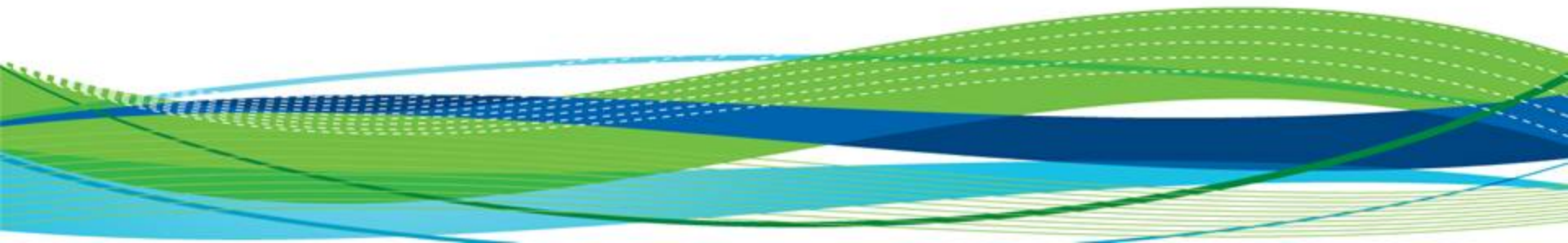
Support Telehealth and Reduce Regulatory Burdens for Rural Providers



Future Model: Community Outpatient Model



- 24/7 emergency Services
- Flexibility to Meet the Needs of Your Community through Outpatient Care:
 - Meet Needs of Your Community through a Community Needs Assessment:
 - Rural Health Clinic
 - FFQHC look-a-like
 - Swing beds
 - No preclusions to home health, skilled nursing, infusions services observation care.
- TELEHEALTH SERVICES AS REASONABLE COSTS.—For purposes of this subsection, with respect to qualified outpatient services, costs reasonably associated with having a backup physician available via a telecommunications system shall be considered reasonable costs.”
- ***“The amount of payment for qualified outpatient services is equal to 105 percent of the reasonable costs of providing such services.”***

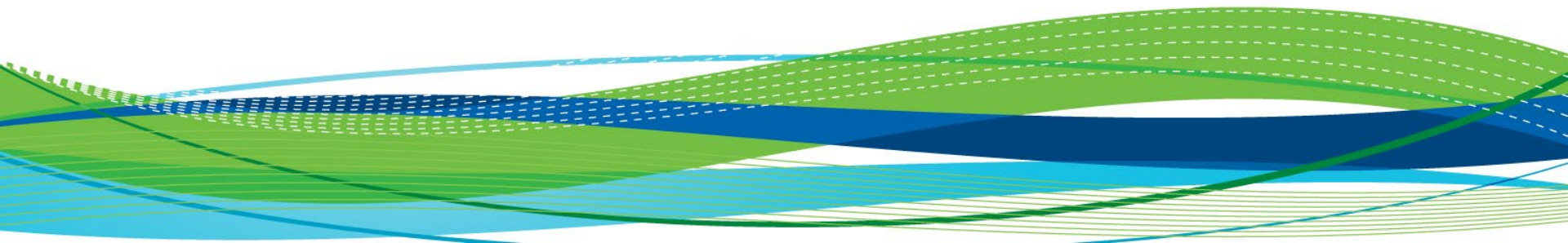


Global Budgeting



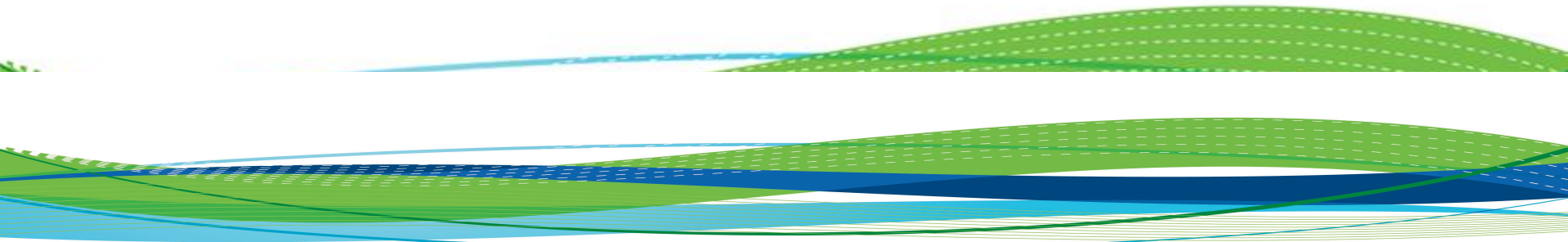
Your voice. Louder.

- CMMI published White Paper on Global Budgeting and rural providers
- Maryland All-Payer Model
 - Fixed global budgets based on historical cost trends
- Pennsylvania initiated Global Budgeting demonstration
 - In progress now
- Concerns:
 - Variations in cost due to seasons and epidemics
 - Services covered under budget and for what populations/payers?

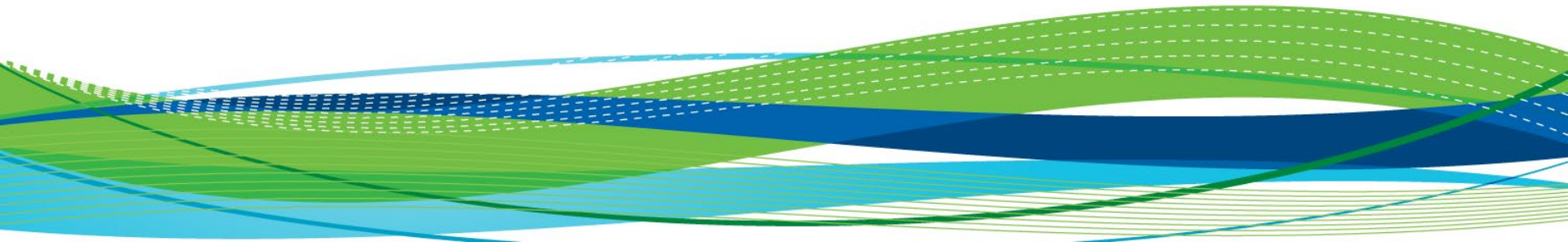


Why Rural Matters?

- Rural drives national politics/policy
- Innovation hubs/ clearly defined service areas and populations
- Workforce shortage/resource shortages/health disparities
- National tech/populations shift

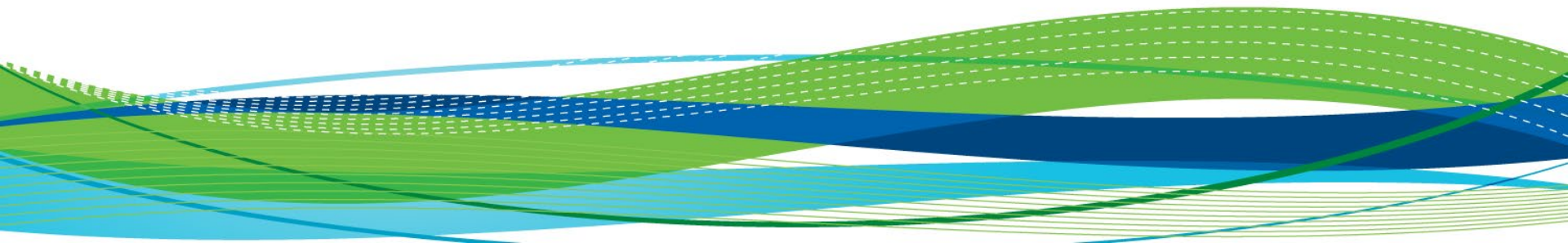


U.S. Census show that after a modest four-year decline, the population in nonmetropolitan counties remained stable from 2014 to 2019 at about 46 million. (2014-2019 rural adjacent to urban saw growth.)



The Rural Youth Population Is Growing

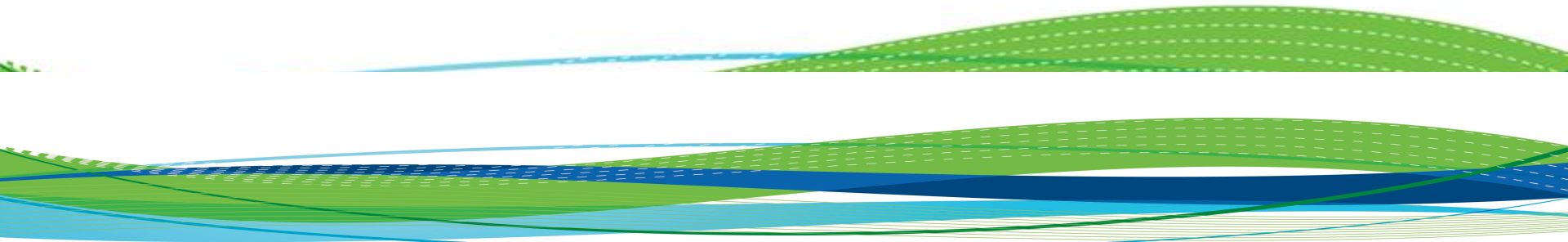
Although some rural areas are indeed declining in population, this figure obscures the larger overall trend: **The number of students in rural school districts is steadily growing**, according to data compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).



THE IMPORTANCE OF TODAY

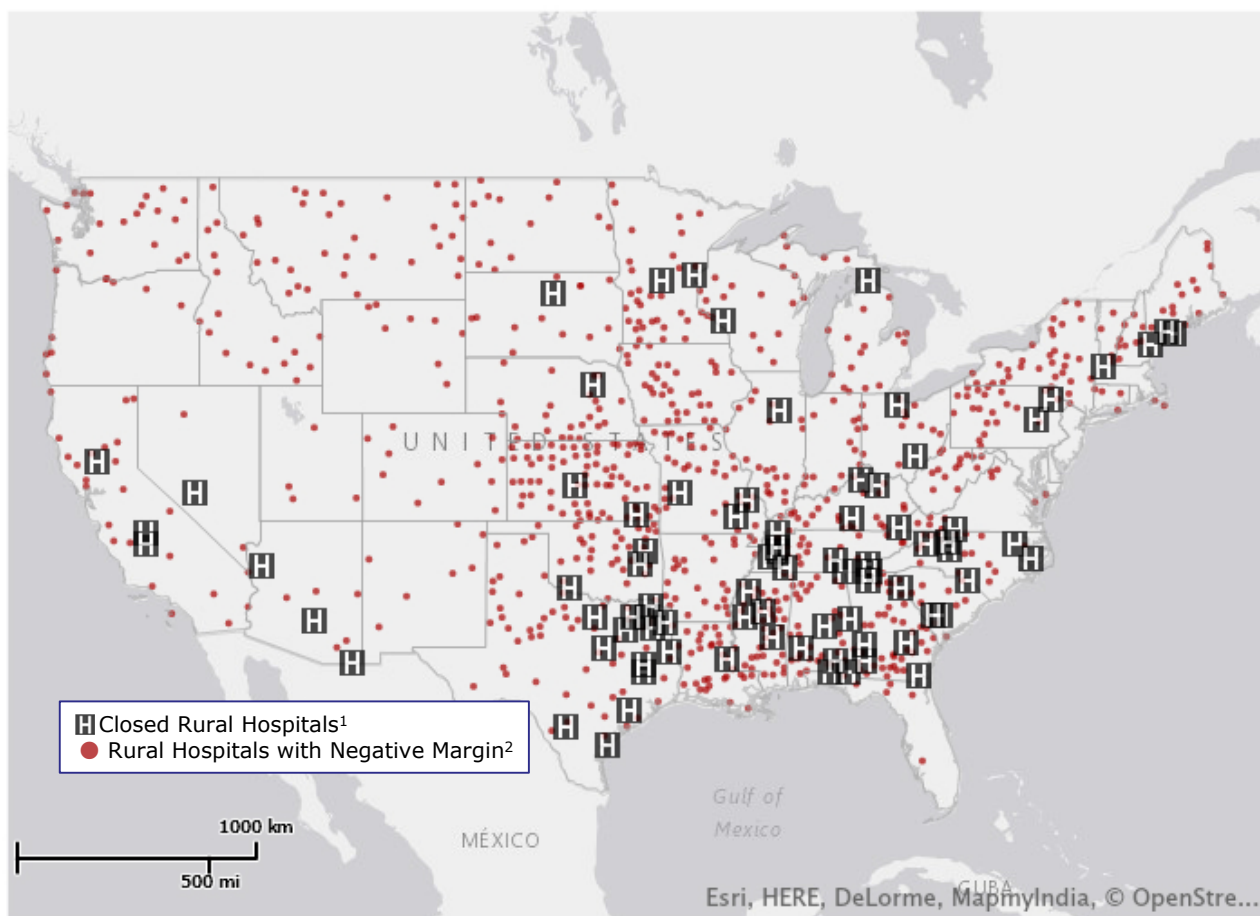
Rural healthcare is critical for rural patients and the rural economy:

- You can't have a healthy rural economy without a healthy rural community.
- Quality rural healthcare saves lives, provides skilled jobs, attracts businesses, and reinvests millions back into rural communities.



The Rural Health Safety Net is Under Pressure

**113 Rural
Hospital
Closures
Since 2010**



Less Broadband Access

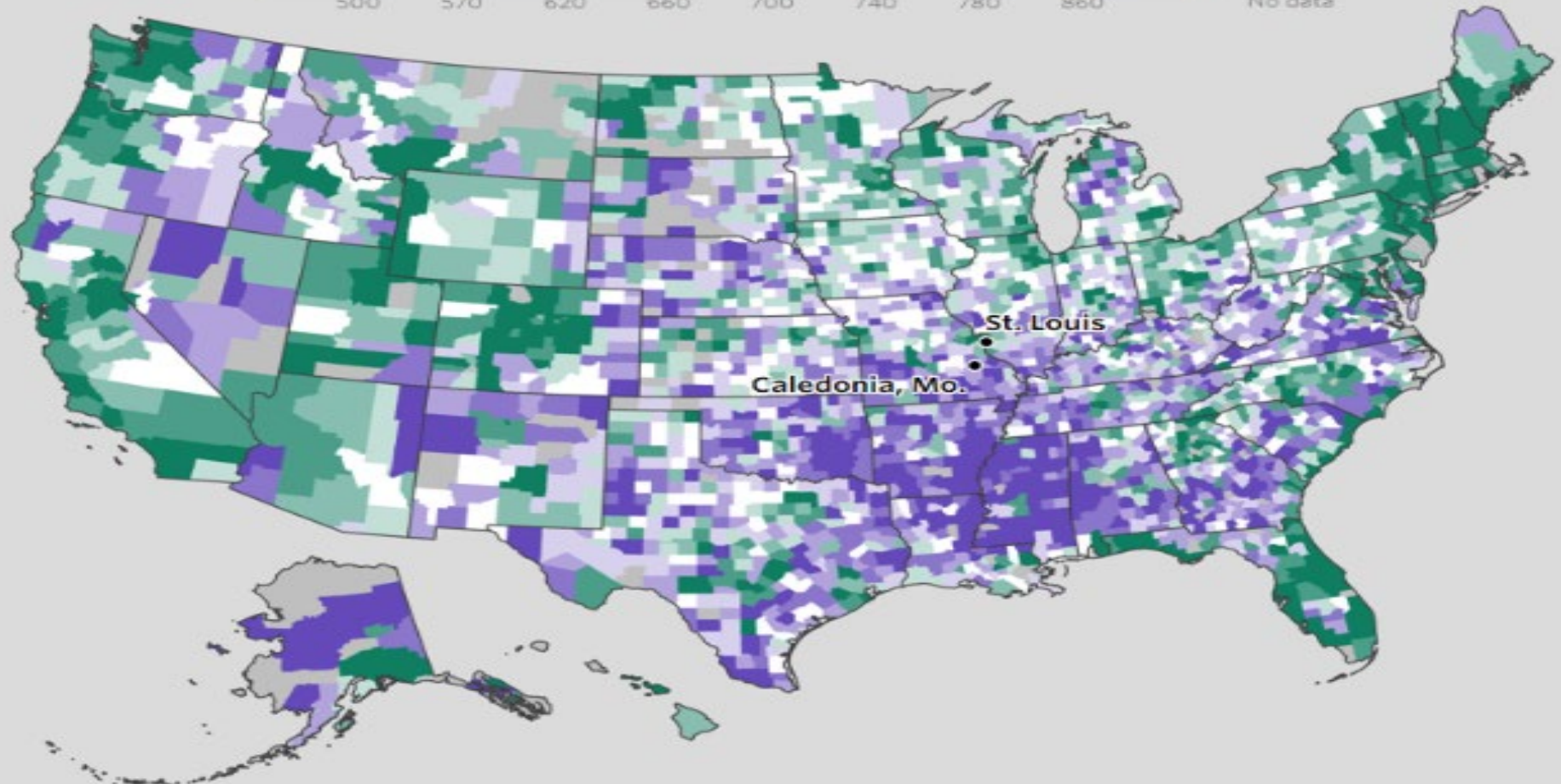
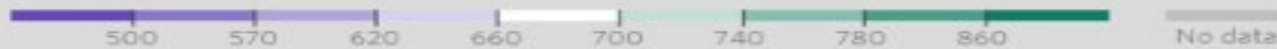
(Source: Wall Street Journal)



Your voice. Louder.

Sparsely populated parts of the U.S. have less access to broadband internet service, leaving rural communities with wireless alternatives that are slow and expensive.

Internet subscriptions per 1,000 households



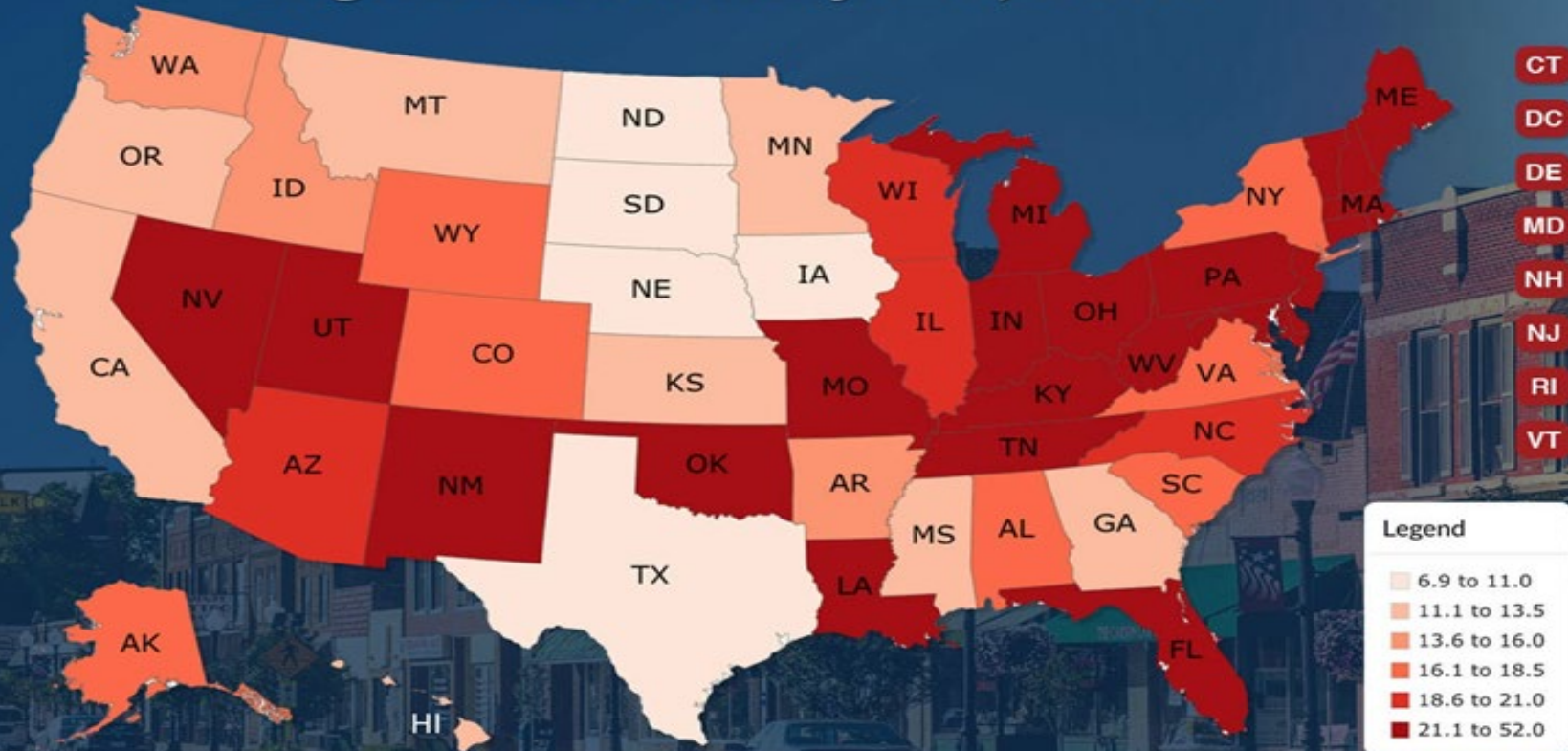
Opioid fatality rates are highest in states with large rural populations



The rate of opioid-related overdose deaths in nonmetro counties is 45% higher than in metro counties.

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Number and age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths by state, US 2016

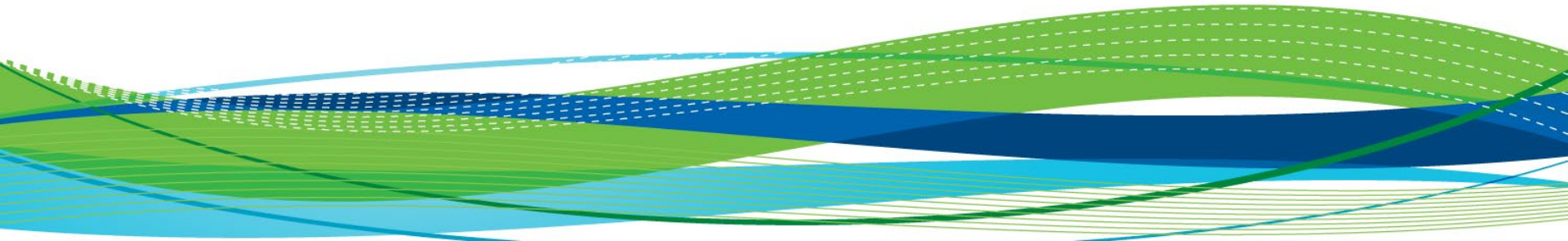


Rural Innovation History



Your voice. Louder.

- Montana Medical Assistance Facilities ([MT-MAF](#))
- Essential Access Community Hospital ([EACH](#))/Rural Primary Care Hospital (PeaCH)
 - “Declining hospital utilization has created excess hospital capacity in rural areas, has depressed occupancy rates, and threatens the financial viability of rural hospitals.” [J Rural Health](#), Fall, 1991
 - Both HCFA Demos precursor to Critical Access Hospital (CAH) in BBA 1997, essential to this sweeping legislation
- BBA 1997: Creation of CAH
- Frontier Extended Stay Clinic ([FESC](#)), 2010-2013
- Frontier Community Health Integration Project ([FCHIP](#)), 2016-2019
- Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Program ([REACH](#))



Key Issues



Rural Hospital closures

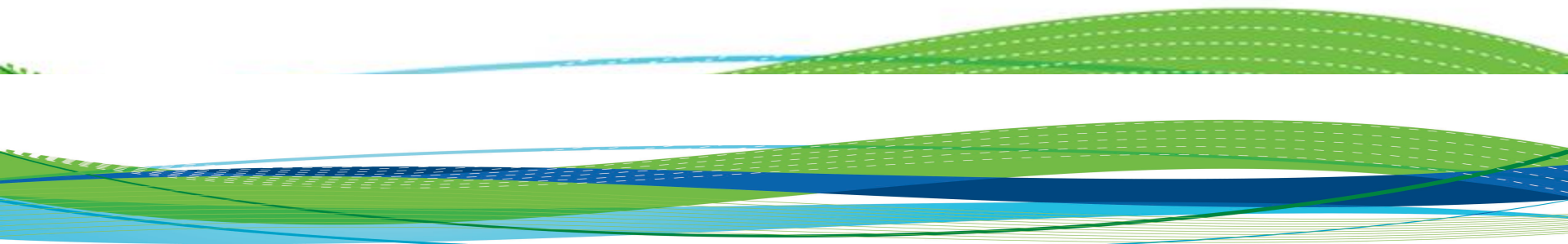
Long term care/ Aging

Behavioral Health

Obesity

Maternity care

Workforce

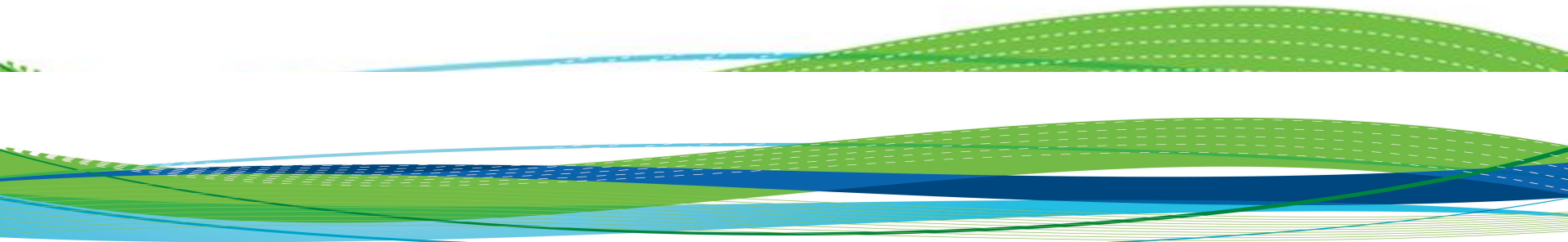


Advocacy Points

113 rural hospitals have closed since 2010; >46% of rural hospitals are operating at a loss.

388 Rural Health Clinics have closed between 2012 & 2017.

Rural life expectancy is decreasing.





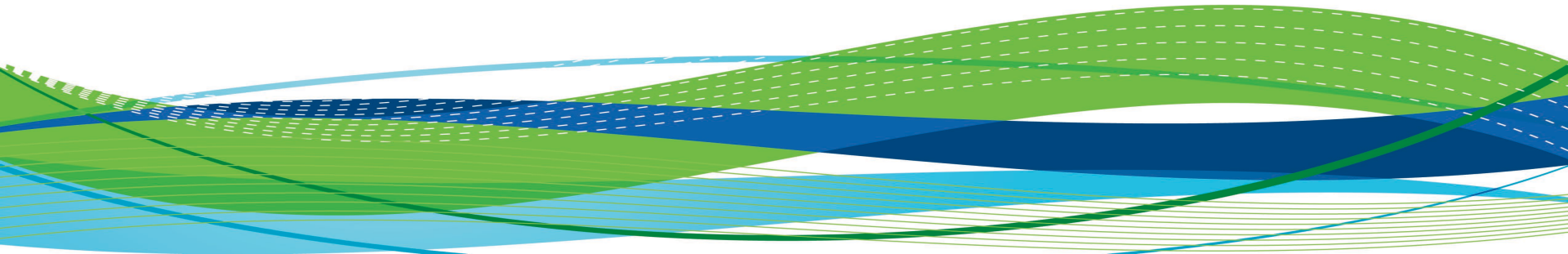
Your voice. Louder.

G o R u r a l !

Alan Morgan

Chief Executive Officer

National Rural Health Association





**Your opinion is valuable to us.
Please participate in this brief survey:**

www.surveymonkey.com/r/SWTRCWebinarSurvey

This webinar series is made possible through funding provided by Health Resources and Services Administration, Office for the Advancement of Telehealth and the Office of Rural Health Policy, Rural Hospital Flexibility Program.



**ARIZONA
TELEMEDICINE
PROGRAM**



**SOUTHWEST
TELEHEALTH
RESOURCE CENTER**



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health



Improving Access to Quality Medical Care Webinar Series

Please check our website
For upcoming webinars

<http://telemedicine.arizona.edu>



ARIZONA
TELEMEDICINE
PROGRAM



SOUTHWEST
TELEHEALTH
RESOURCE CENTER™



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health