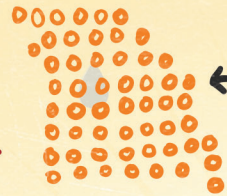


RURAL ROAD TO RECOVERY

Rural hospitals played a critical role throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and remain essential to Missouri's ongoing recovery.

Of Missouri's
19 hospital closures since 2015,
10 were rural — more than half.



In 2017,
55 rural counties had **NO** hospital.

 **61** rural hospitals represent **44%** of Missouri's hospitals, employ nearly **29,000** workers with a payroll of **\$1.8 billion**, and provide **\$518 million** in uncompensated care and **\$674 million** in total community benefit.

In 2019 before the pandemic, approximately half of all rural hospitals lost money. The average operating margin was less than half a percent.

Rural areas have a higher percentage of children and elderly living in poverty, with a **29%** lower per capita income than urban areas.

Fewer rural Missourians have health insurance. Voter-approved Medicaid expansion could improve health access.



Reimagining rural health delivery and hospital finance could reduce hospital closures and health care deserts.