What is the Connection between Rural Economic Development and Rural Health?

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• Established in 1980, at The University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Grand Forks, ND

• One of the country’s most experienced state rural health offices

• UND Center of Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

**Focus on**
- Educating and Informing
- Policy
- Research and Evaluation
- Working with Communities
- American Indians
- Health Workforce
- Hospitals and Facilities

ruralhealth.und.edu
What do we mean by rural health

• Rural health refers to rural and frontier citizens accessing quality essential health services to improve their health status
• In general for ND, we are referring to living outside of Bismarck/Mandan, Fargo/West Fargo, Grand Forks, and Minot
• Over half of the state’s population is considered rural
• Access services in rural hospitals, primary care clinics, nursing homes, EMS, public health
• Can also be relationships with tertiary providers
• Use of technology to shorten distance and increase access

What is Rural Health?

• Philosophy: rural people have the same right to expect healthy lives and access to care as do urban people – sense of fairness
• Access essential services locally or regionally
• Access to specialty services through network arrangements
• Quality of care on par with urban
• Availability of technology
• Rural health is very community oriented
• Integral part of what a community is and how people see themselves
• Sectors: Economic/business, public/government, education, faith/church, civic/fraternal, and health/human services
• Direct services provided to the public and secondary impact for other sectors
• Major employer
What is the Relationship Between Rural Health and Economic Development?

- **Employment**
  - 10 percent of direct employment and 5 percent indirect (15%)
  - Rural hospital first or second largest employer
  - 36 CAHs payroll impact
    - About $215 million impact on rural ND economy
    - About $4-10 million for each CAH, (direct and indirect)
  - CAH average about 220 jobs (about 150 direct and 75 indirect)
  - Statewide CAH’s contribute about 8,000 jobs to the rural economy
  - About 40% of CAHs have local tax support and 75% have hospital foundation – community support
  - One rural physician can have an impact of $1-1.5 million in a year and generate over 20 additional jobs
  - Statewide 8 of top 10 private employers are health related
  - Statewide health care is 8.5%-9% of GSP
  - ND ranks 6th for percentage of workers in health care jobs
  - Health jobs rank 2nd only to business jobs for growth in ND (2000-2010)

- **Attracting and Retaining Local Residents for Business and Public Sectors**
  - Anchor for other economic activity
  - Stabilize and maintain (even grow) area population
  - Building a regional economy
  - Educated workforce
  - Dual employment

- **Generating Local/Area Investment Funds**
  - Local economic impact
  - Cash and short-term investment available from local financial centers
    - Source for local investments – loans for other business
  - Transfer payments – Medicare and Medicaid
  - Retirement income
What is the Relationship between Rural Health and Economic Development?

- **Enhancing Local Leadership Capacity**
  - Formal involvement as community leaders
    - Local government
    - Civic organizations
    - Local economic development
    - School and education
    - Faith community
  - Building skills and commitment to civic responsibility – catalyst
  - Linkage to external resources and knowledge

What are the Next Steps – Where Do We Go From Here?

- Recognize the significance of the local health sector in economic matters
- Recognize the significance of the local health sector in community development
- Search for opportunities to link economic development and rural health development
- For both economic development and rural health development remember the importance, the legitimate role, and the impact of community participation
- Recognize that one size does not fit all – change must fit with local needs
- Build a relationship with the North Dakota Rural Health Association
- Contact the Center for Rural Health to work with you
- Flex program Rural Health and Economic Development Planning Group
Contact us for more information!

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