

# ARKANSAS'S SHIFTING RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE

MAY 2020

## State Policy Options to Address Rural Health Challenges

### Telehealth



Expand telehealth services by providing assistance to rural providers for start-up costs, increasing telehealth coverage and payment, and upgrading broadband access in rural areas.

### Payment and Service Delivery Models



Test new payment and service delivery models, such as the Pennsylvania Rural Health Model,<sup>1</sup> which pays rural hospitals on a global budget.

### Rural Medical Education Training



Provide opportunities for resident placement in rural communities and enhanced support of graduate medical education.

### Transportation



Develop systems to ensure adequate patient transportation to, from, and between institutions regionally.

### Hospital Stabilization Fund



Create a hospital stabilization fund to provide financial support, such as below-market-interest-rate loans, for rural hospitals.

### Healthcare Districts



Create healthcare districts as taxing and governance entity for communities that may not be able to sustain services independently.

Adapted from NIHCM Foundation's *Rural Health in America: How Shifting Populations Leave People Behind* infographic.

<sup>1</sup> For reference, visit <https://achi.net/library/rural-health-population>.