



# EDGEFIELD COUNTY

## Population Health Assessment

May 2023



**EDGEFIELD COUNTY**  
HEALTHCARE

*An Affiliate of Self Regional Healthcare*





# About Edgefield County

Located on the Savannah River just north of Aiken and Augusta, Edgefield County is the 34th largest county in the state by land area and the 36th largest by population. Established in 1785 out of the historic Ninety-Six District, the county has a rich tradition of producing prominent leaders in the state and country. Largely rural, Edgefield County is one of the country's largest peach producers. Anchored by the county seat of Edgefield, only 27% of the county's 502 square miles is deemed urban or suburban.

There are a 25,657 residents in the county, with a population decline of five percent from 2010. The current top industries in Edgefield County are a balanced combination of educational services and health and social assistance, manufacturing, and retail trade.

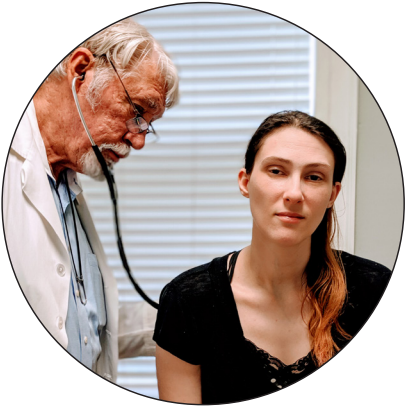
According to County Health Rankings, Edgefield County ranks 60-75% higher than other counties in the state of South Carolina. Edgefield County ranks 10th in the state of South Carolina for health outcomes (length of life and quality of life), and is ranked 19th out of 46 counties in South Carolina for health factors.

**We believe there is still room for improvement.**

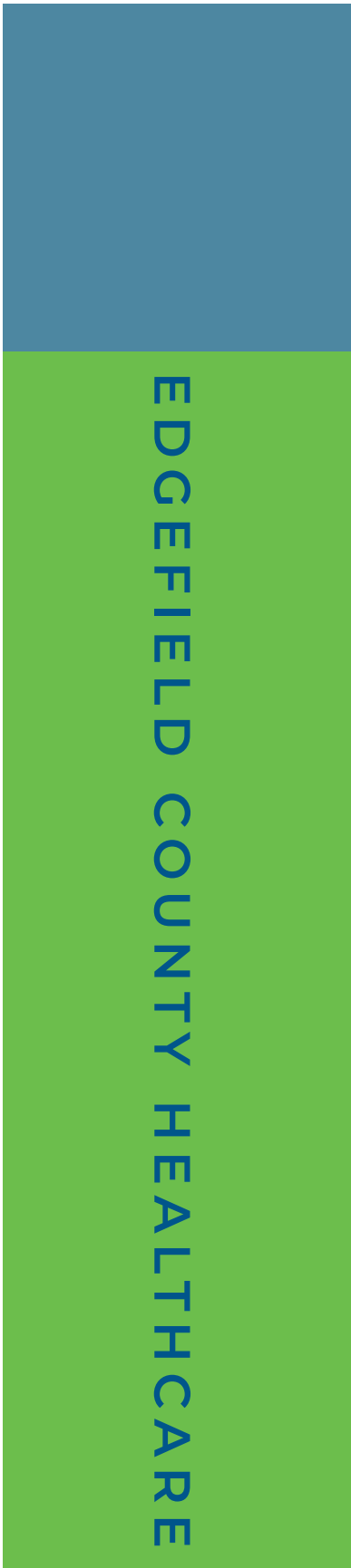


**Edgefield County Healthcare** has been offering quality healthcare to Edgefield and surrounding counties since 1972. It is a critical access hospital with 25 acute care beds. The mission of Edgefield County Healthcare is “to provide quality and appropriate care to all patients.” Self Regional Healthcare welcomed Edgefield County Healthcare into the Self Regional Healthcare family on January 1, 2019.

The hospital provides the following services: emergency department, swing bed program, general surgery, podiatry, primary care services, rehabilitation, radiology, short term acute inpatient, and laboratory services. Staff include physicians, nurses, social workers, rehabilitation therapists, respiratory therapists, pharmacists and dieticians.



Edgefield County Healthcare was named a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital for Quality by the National Rural Health Association in both 2021 and 2022.



## AccessHealth Lakelands

Funded by The Duke Endowment, this program assists Edgefield residents without health insurance by providing access to a primary care home, assistance with navigating the health system, and addressing social needs. With additional funding provided by the SC Office of Rural Health, Edgefield County Healthcare now has an onsite Community Navigator to assist these residents.

## Best Chance Network

Edgefield County Hospital partners with SC DHEC to provide the Best Chance Network program to qualifying women. The screenings cover office visits with a health care provider, a clinical breast exam, pelvic exam, mammogram and other preventative screens, as well as support services and education resources.

## Clinical Shadowing

The hospital serves as a shadowing site for high school students who need to obtain a clinical shadowing credit. The hospital is currently working on future goals to connect with the local middle and high school to showcase potential opportunities for employment in healthcare. In addition, plans are being developed to hold career fair days for students. The hospital also offers shadowing opportunities in radiology and respiratory services for Piedmont Technical College students.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training

Partnering with The Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina and the SC Hospital Association, the hospital participated in The Rural Hospital DEI Learning Collaborative to improve understanding and application of diversity, equity, and inclusion practices. Through the initiative, funding was received to provide DEI training to hospital leadership which will assist in building community relationships.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY HEALTH  
POSITIVE ACTIVITIES



## Edgefield County Hospital Auxiliary

The hospital Auxiliary group consists of approximately 25 volunteers. These volunteers operate the gift shop and assist all departments by delivering gifts to patients and providing clerical support to departments. The Auxiliary holds fundraising events and uses proceeds from the gift shop to purchase items that departments may need.



## Feeding the Needy

Beginning with COVID, Calvin Henderson – a community member – began the Feeding the Needy program. Over 100 meals have been served to county residents. Several employees of the hospital have volunteered and served with Feeding the Needy.



## Health Express Mobile Unit

The Health Express Mobile Unit, a 42-foot mobile vehicle, is utilized by the community health team to provide preventative screenings and health education to churches and residents across the county. Through a grant from the SC Center for Rural and Primary Care, the team recently expanded their services and now offers a weekly mobile clinic with a Nurse Practitioner in the county. As individuals deal with social determinants of health issues, their goal is to bring care to them, alleviating transportation needs in our more rural areas.



PROMOTING POSITIVE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES HEALTH

## Maternal Health Program

Edgefield County was identified by the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Care as a county with a high need index for obstetrical care. A grant was, therefore, awarded to the Self Regional Healthcare Residency Program to establish a program that will provide this type of care for Edgefield County residents, especially for those who live in poverty and have trouble traveling for prenatal care. This newly established clinic includes physician-led prenatal care, including ultrasound, non-stress testing, high risk pregnancy consultation, and post-partum contraception.



## Mobile Mammography Unit

Edgefield County Hospital partners with Self Regional Healthcare's Mobile Mammography Unit to provide a convenient way to receive yearly breast exams. The unit provides high-quality digital images performed by a female ARRT-registered mammographer in a completely private environment. The images are read by Self Regional's dedicated breast radiologist. The van is in Edgefield every Monday from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm.



PROMOTING COMMUNITY HEALTH  
POSITIVE ACTIVITIES

## Community Engagement Assessment and Recommendations

For the purposes of this assessment, Edgefield County Hospital is being evaluated based on three areas: **partnerships, capacity, and innovation**. To improve the overall-well-being of a community, strong partnerships, enhanced capacity, and innovation are necessary. Each of these key critical categories could receive up to five points. **For this assessment, Edgefield County Hospital received a score of 7 out of 15.**



### Partnerships (3 out of 5)

Edgefield County Hospital has a strong partnership with various groups in Edgefield County and neighboring counties. However, a number of the partnerships with schools and local non-profits and community groups need to be re-activated post-COVID. Team members from Edgefield County Hospital are eager to re-engage with community partners and recognize that this will take time.

## Recommendations:

- Re-engage with community partners and strengthen relationships.
- Prioritize building a stronger relationship with the high school and host annual career fairs.
- Integrate education efforts into the Feeding the Needy program.

## Capacity (3 out of 5)

Edgefield County Hospital desires to be much more engaged in activities and community engagement efforts. Self Regional Healthcare has a full-time Director of Community Health and Health Equity, which has increased the capacity of the Edgefield County Hospital. Very few individuals are involved in most of the key community activities.



## Recommendations

- Provide leadership development training and opportunities.
- Incentivize all Edgefield County employees to participate in community activities.
- Seek shared capacity strengthening activities with Self Regional Healthcare.





## Innovation (1 out of 5)

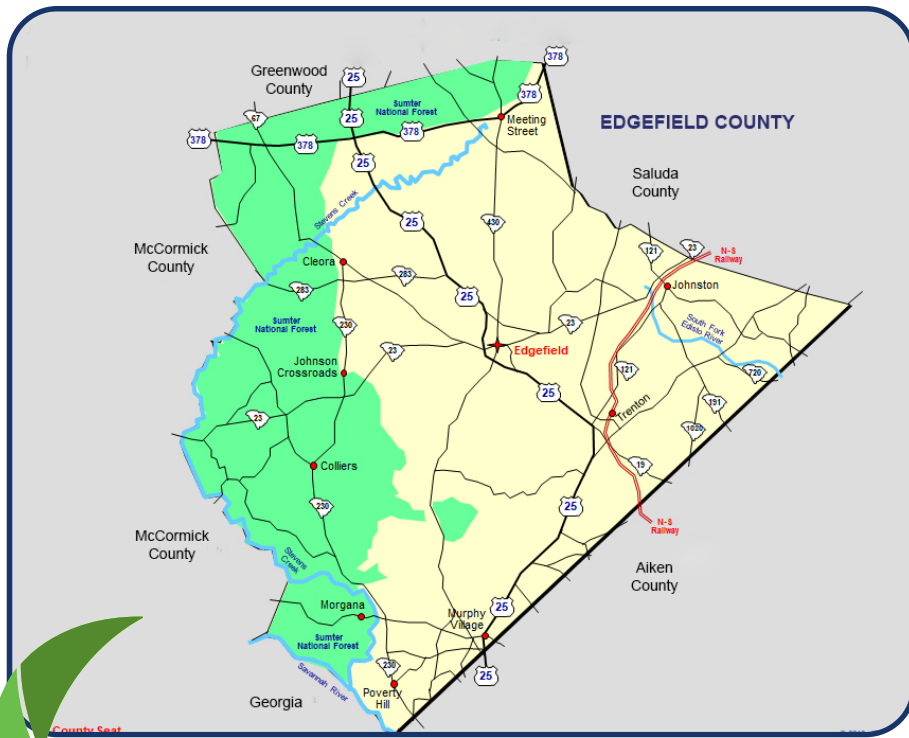
Edgefield County Hospital is preparing a pilot project applying lessons learned from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training.

### Recommendations

- Determine additional pilot projects to begin after the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training that can incorporate some of the unique aspects of the county.
- Consider how to create an innovative program that will maximize the large number of retired individuals in the community outside of the Auxiliary program.

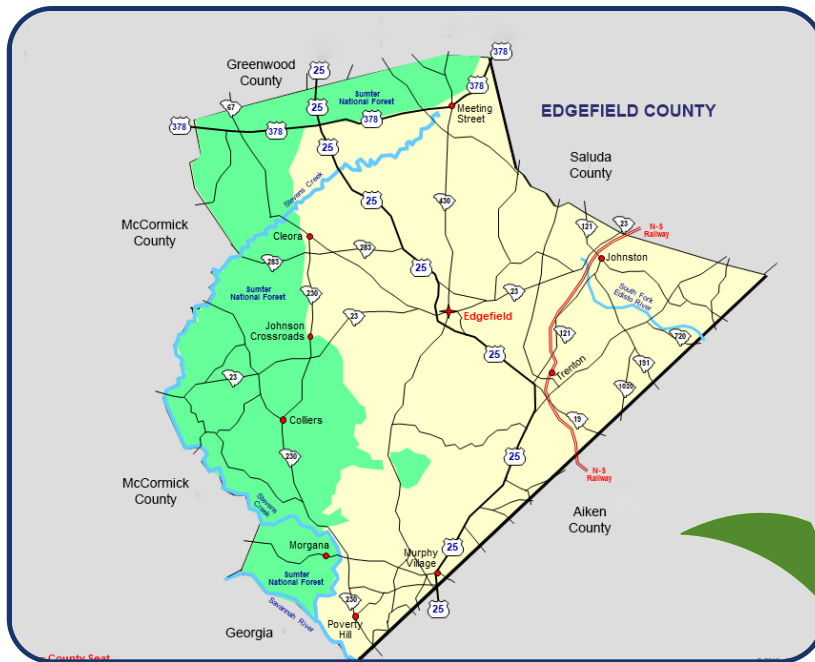


PROMOTING COMMUNITY HEALTH  
POSITIVE ACTIVITIES



## EDUCATION

- Adult Education & Family Literacy
- Bettis Preparatory Leadership Academy
- Career and Technology Center
- Douglas Elementary
- Fox Creek High School
- JET Middle School
- Johnston Elementary
- Merriwether Elementary
- Merriwether Middle
- Piedmont Technical College
- Strom Thurmond High
- W.E. Parker Elementary
- Wardlaw Academy

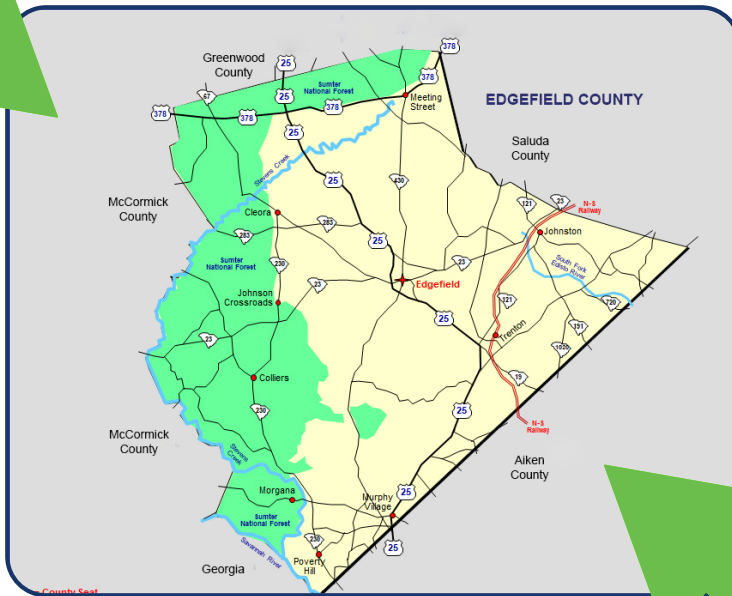


## NONPROFITS

- Edgefield County Churches Helping Others
- Edgefield County Senior Center
- First Steps Edgefield County
- Food Pantries
  - Johnston Food Bank
  - Pleasant Grove Baptist
  - Springfield Baptist
  - Women in Unity
- GLEAMNS
- Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity
- Historical Society
- Hope for Hooves
- Lions Club
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- United Way
- Women in Unity After School

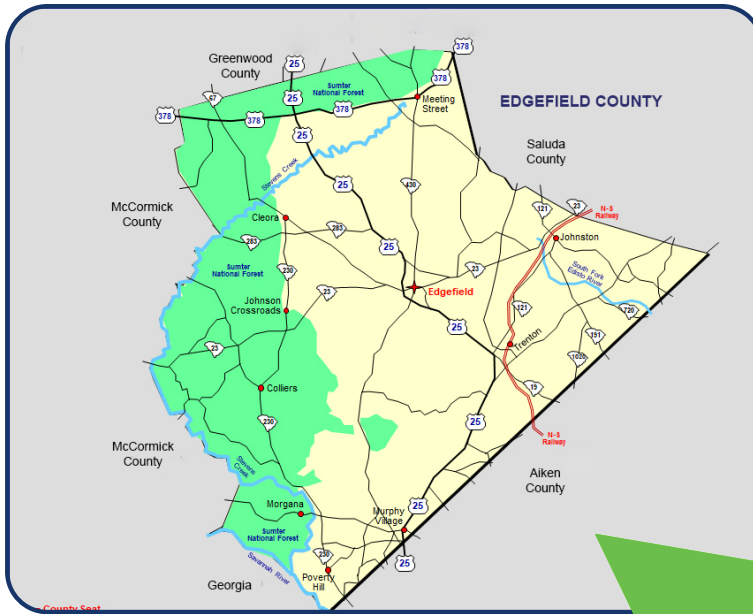
## RESOURCES

- Chamber of Commerce
- Convenience/ Recycling Centers
  - 191 Site
  - 25 Site
  - 378 Site
  - 430 Site
  - Georgia Road
- Merriwether
- Strom Thurmond
- Trenton
- Edgefield Airport
- Edgefield County Public Library
- Sweetwater Community Center



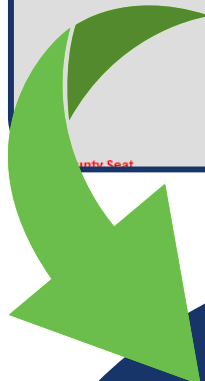
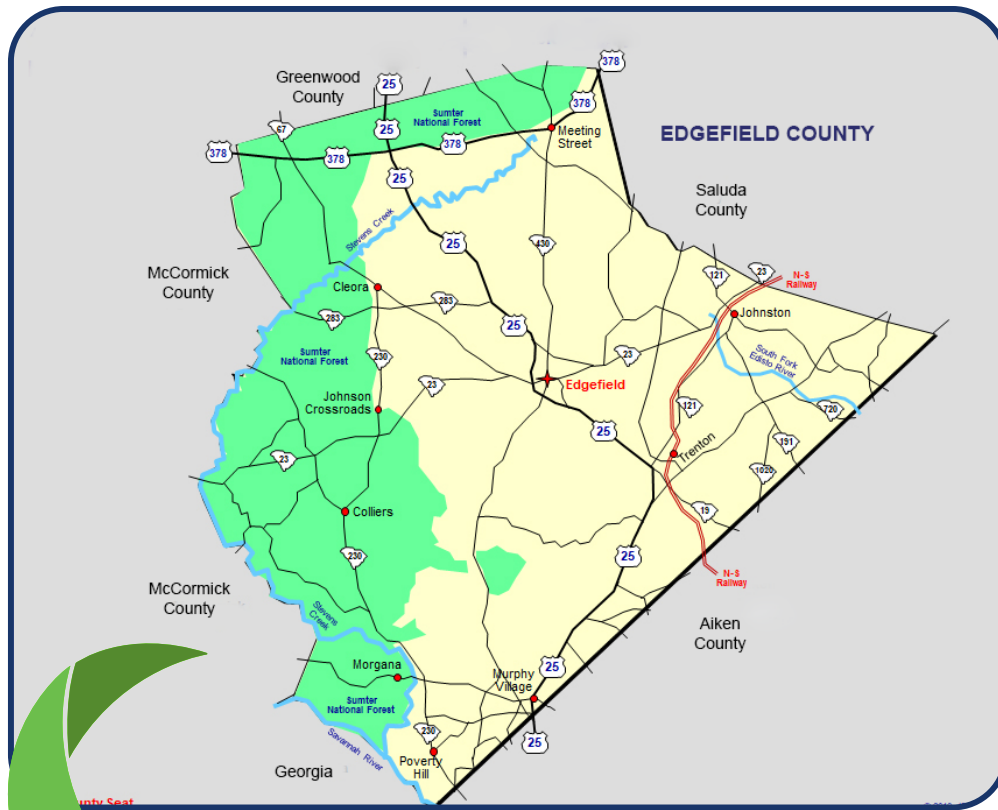
## INDUSTRY

- Bondex Inc
- Generac Power Systems
- Industrial Mechanical Group
- Pac Tell Group
- Southern Felt Co Inc
- USFIBERS



## HEALTH

- Aiken Emergency Department at Sweetwater
- Beckman Center for Mental Health
- Bela Family Dentistry
- Burton Center
- Cornerstone
- DCA of Edgefield
- Dr. Ransom L Bryan Jr DDS
- Edgefield County Hospital
- Edgefield Family Dentistry
- Edgefield Medical Center
- Edgefield Post Acute
- Family Eyecare Center
- Forest View Manor Retirement
- Piedmont Physicians at Sweetwater



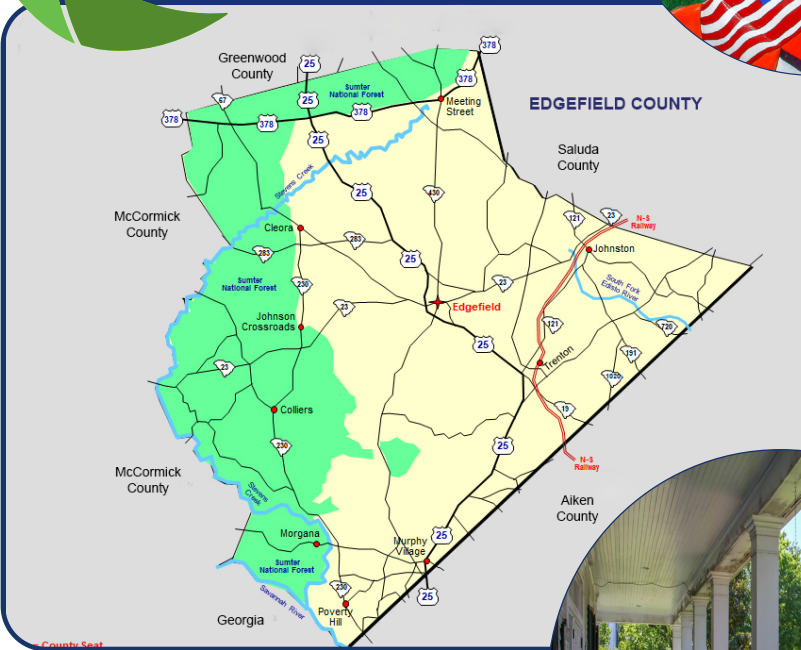
## LANDMARKS/EVENTS

- Bettis Academy Park
- Edgefield Market 2nd Saturday Festival
- Horn Creek Church
- Oakley Park
- Ridge Peach Festival
- Savannah Creek
- Savannah River
- Steven's Creek Heritage Preserve
- Sumter National Forest
- Willowbrook Cemetery



## THINGS TO DO

- Edgefield Discovery Center and Museum
- Forks Area Trail System
- Lick Fork Lake
- Magnolia Shadows
- NWTF Wild Turkey Center
- NWTF Palmetto Shooting Complex
- Oakley Park Museum
- Pine Ridge Country Club
- Slade Lake
- Ten Governors Rail Trail



## CHURCHES

- Antioch Baptist Church
- Berea Baptist Church
- Big Stevens Creek
- Cedar Grove Church
- Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Edgefield Church of God
- Edgefield First Baptist Church
- Edgefield Presbyterian Church
- Edgefield United Methodist Church
- Evangel Christian Fellowship
- First Bethany of McCormick
- Gilgal Baptist Church
- Lighthouse Fellowship Church
- Little Stevens Creek Baptist Church
- McKendree Church
- Mount Zion Baptist Church
- Mountain Creek Baptist Church
- Mt Olive Baptist Church
- Pace Haven Baptist Church
- Parksville Baptist Church
- Philippi Baptist Church
- Pine Grove Pentecostal Holiness
- Piney Grove Church
- Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
- Pleasant Lane Baptist Church
- Plum Branch Baptist Church
- Providence Baptist Church
- Red Hill Baptist Church
- Red Oak Grove Baptist Church
- Rehoboth Baptist Church
- Republican Baptist Church
- Rose Hill Church
- Simmon Ridge Baptist Church
- Springfield Baptist Church
- St Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
- Sweetwater Baptist Church
- Trinity Community Church Inc
- Willow Spring Baptist Church







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This Assessment was funded by the  
SC Office of Rural Health  
and produced by ISI Consulting.



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SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF  
**RURAL HEALTH**  
Investment. Opportunity. Health.

