

## **Rural America**

**From 2010 to 2020, more than 130 of the 1,800 rural hospitals in America went out of business. At the start of 2020, almost half of the rest were at "high risk" of closure, according to the nonprofit Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform.**

**The situation grew even worse as the pandemic diminished the frequency of money-making elective surgeries and a growing demand for health-care workers caused hospital payrolls to soar.**

**Many hospitals were kept open only by infusions of federal money.**

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