On average, rural residents are older and poorer than their urban counterparts; they face higher incidences of chronic and acute medical conditions, including cancer and diabetes. In addition, rural residents must travel farther to access health care. Broadband-enabled telemedicine promises easy access to greater health care benefits and significant economic benefits for rural America.

**CASE STUDY**

**DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Fiber optic broadband for home health care**

Carrington, ND (pop. 1,989)

For elderly residents and those battling diseases or injuries, fiber optic broadband allows for home health care. Robotic home health devices are used by providers to administer tests and medications and report patient information to the hospital over a fiber connection.

**HOME TELECOM**

**Psychiatrists available anywhere at any time**

Moncks Corner, SC (pop. 11,419)

Roper St. Francis (RSF) Moncks Corner Medical Plaza provides high-quality patient care to the citizens of Moncks Corner and the surrounding rural areas. Using high definition cameras, large monitors, and symmetrical broadband from Home Telecom, telepsychiatry allows RSF Moncks Corner Medical Plaza to call on psychiatrists located virtually anywhere at any time. The average stay has been reduced from 36 to 4 hours.

Smart Rural Community℠ is an initiative of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association. Smart Rural Community comprises programming to promote the rural broadband networks and broadband-enabled applications that rural communities can leverage to foster innovative economic development, education, health care and other vital services.