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Give Rural Towns a Look

Think Small to Cast a Wider Job Search Net

Have you ever taken a vacation and felt that wonderful "getting away" feeling that comes with the peace and quiet of beautiful landscapes, waterways and down home friendly people?

If you enjoy a slower paced lifestyle with less stress and want to go where people know you and appreciate what you do, you might be a perfect fit for a more rural practice.

Rural communities are not always hundreds of miles from a metro area. Some of these communities are within easy distance to larger cities but offer a quality of life you just can't find anywhere else. Here are some reasons you might want to consider practicing in rural community:

- A short drive to work each day making call easier and quality of life better (you can be home for dinner)
- Knowing your patients and their families better, following them through life
- Families are more ingrained in the community and build relationships more quickly than in a large city
- Additional financial incentives are often available such as retention bonuses or loan repayment
- Enjoy quaint shopping districts with smaller stores that are unique to the area
- Generally lower cost of living with more affordable housing
- Safer communities with family-focused activities
- Schools can often offer a variety of programs with smaller class sizes
- Enjoy having more input into the practice. For example, when smaller hospitals own and operate practices, administrators are more easily accessed and physician engagement is encouraged

A few reasons physicians say they chose to practice in a rural area:

In smaller communities, "A new physician can revitalize everyone by offering a new perspective. They can bring new ideas, new procedures and practices. It broadens the potential base of patients because everyone looks for something different when choosing a physician."

What I find most rewarding about practicing rural medicine is that I get to make a good living taking care of my friends, and that's about as good as it gets!"

Sidney Stranathan, DO
Anthony, Kansas
Population: 2,254

"I chose to practice rural medicine in Kansas for a variety of reasons. Without specialists or a large hospital nearby, I am encouraged to maintain and enhance my skills to provide more comprehensive care to a diverse population."

Fresh air, short commutes, and small classroom sizes are immeasurable benefits. Knowing where, and how, my patients live, allows for a more personalized and caring delivery of health care. I enjoy coaching my kids and their friends (who often happen to also be patients) at tee-ball, playing in the river with my sons, and trail bike riding with my husband.

Slower, more peaceful living, allows a more satisfying rounded lifestyle, and I have found home."

Erin Baxa, MD
Osborne, KS
Population: 1,431



W. Eugene Smith, Country Doctor

Country doctor Ernest Ceriani making house call on foot in small town.

Kremmling, CO, US, 1948
 LIFE Magazine

"Rural America is where the heart of our great nation is. It is where my roots are, where I learned to work and to value life."

Caring for its people is deeply satisfying and rewarding, as they are so appreciative. I'm literally a part of every family I care for as I share their greatest joys and deepest hurts. In this I am thankful."

Barbara Brown-Applegate, DO
Osborne, KS
Population: 1,431



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