

Services that Impact Rural Development

Type of Growth	Services Important to Attract Growth
Industrial and Business	Health and Education
Retirees	Health and Safety

Business and Industry Growth

Studies have found that quality-of-life (QOL) factors are playing a dramatic role in business and industry location decisions. Among the most significant of the QOL variables are health care services, which are important for at least three reasons.

First, as noted by a member of the Board of Directors of a community economic development corporation, the presence of good health and education services is imperative to industrial and business leaders as they select a community for location. Employees and participating management may offer strong resistance if they are asked to move into a community with substandard or inconveniently located health services.

Secondly, when a business or industry makes a location decision, it wants to ensure that the local labor force will be productive, and a key factor in productivity is good health. Thus, investments in health care services can be expected to yield dividends in the form of increased labor productivity.

The cost of health care services is the third factor that is considered by business and industry in development decisions. Research shows that corporations take a serious look at health care costs in determining site locations. Sites that provide health care services at a lower cost are given higher consideration for new industry than sites with much higher health care costs.