

Editor-In-Chief's Foreword

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff at the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, I am excited to share the 2024 edition of *Rural Policy: The Research Bulletin of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania*. Since its founding in 1987, the Center has been dedicated to promoting policy research that supports rural communities across Pennsylvania. We successfully carry out this mission through both our own research and the grants we provide to faculty at our state universities. *Rural Policy* represents an important component of our ongoing efforts to make high-quality policy research accessible to the public, helping inform people about the critical issues facing rural Pennsylvania. We also appreciate our collaboration with Penn State Libraries, which enables us to make the Center's research freely accessible to anyone with internet access.

This year's issue includes seven articles that cover a wide range of rural-focused policy research. First, it includes an article by researcher Dr. Kristina Brant and colleagues of The Pennsylvania State University that examines emergency food supply and distribution in rural Pennsylvania. The second article is by Dr. Russell C. Hedberg II and colleagues of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, and it assesses utility-scale solar energy in Pennsylvania. Third, included is an article by Professor Hannah Wiseman and colleagues of The Pennsylvania State University, analyzing the potential impact of solar development on Pennsylvania farmland. The fourth article, by Dr. Xiaofeng Li of Pennsylvania Western University Clarion, investigates the current and potential role of public libraries in supporting small business development and workforce growth in rural communities. The fifth article, by Dr. Emily R. Strohacker of The Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, explores the lack of reporting from the perspective of domestic violence or intimate partner violence (DV/IPV) victim-survivors. The sixth article, by Dr. Dara Bourassa of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Sara Grove of Duquesne University, examines important questions regarding the potential demand for care for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder (ADRD) in rural Pennsylvania. Lastly, the seventh article, by Dr. Alison E. Feeney of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, provides an analysis of short-term rentals in Pennsylvania.

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania hopes that you find these studies valuable and informative. We also encourage you to visit our website at www.rural.pa.gov, where you can explore our previous research reports and access rural data made available to the public. Please feel free to contact the Center, should you need any assistance with rural policy or research.

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