

## 25 CHALLENGES IN RURAL S.C.

From the state's independent, consumer-owned electric cooperatives

CHALLENGES
Aging or missing infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.)
Aging, run down school buildings
Decline in farm economy and related jobs, less rural acreage used for agriculture
Difficulty attracting a well-educated workforce
Distracted driving
Financial issues for seniors on fixed incomes (health care, hunger, transportation, etc.)
Food deserts
Homelessness
Hunger, particularly among school-aged children
Inadequate financial and other support for rural entrepreneurs
Inadequate roads or poorly maintained roads
Increasing heroin/opioid addiction
Insufficient public transportation
Insufficient teacher compensation
Lack of after-school programs
Lack of good jobs
Lack of reliable sources for local news and information (Community Billboard solution)
Mental health issues and shortage of related services
No high-speed internet service available, but no granular data to prove it (Ookla doesn't provide physical addresses)
Poor or unavailable health care (cost, access, proximity)
Poor quality or limited housing (age, size, etc.)
Shortage of economic development
Shortage of First Responders
Stagnant/negative population growth & changing demographics
Substandard education/student achievement