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Preface; Acknowledgments; Share Aging in Rural Places: Policies, Programs, and Professional Practice; Part I-Introduction; 1. What Is Rural? Introduction to Aging in Rural Places; An Aging World; The Importance of Rural Aging; Definitions of Rural; Spatial Distribution of the Older Population; Rural Population Change and Variation; Plan of the Book; Conclusion; Useful Websites; References; 2. Who Are Rural Older Adults?; Challenges for Rural Older Adults; Opportunities and Strengths; Diversity Among Rural Older Adults Conclusion Useful Websites; Note; References; Part II-Health and Human Service Needs of Rural Older Adults; 3. Health and Wellness Among Rural Older Adults; Health Disparities; Behavioral Health; Screening Issues; Access to Health Care; Health Status; Social/Familial Issues; Environment; Stoicism and Survival; International Perspectives; Policies; Conclusion; Useful Websites; References; 4. Housing, Poverty, and Transportation in Rural Places; Housing; Poverty; Transportation; Conclusion; Useful Websites; References; 5. Work, Retirement, and Leisure in Rural Places; Rural America Rural Employment Retirement; Leisure and Recreation; Conclusion; Useful Websites; References; Part III-Providing Health and Human Services to Rural Older Adults; 6. Providing Services to Rural Older Adults; Service Needs of Rural Older Adults; Service and Service Utilization; Barriers to Services for Rural Older Adults; Conclusion; Useful Websites; References; 7. Providing Services to Well Older Adults in Rural Areas; Recreation; Socialization; Civic Engagement and Volunteering; Education and Lifelong Learning; Work and Employment; Conclusion; Useful Websites; References 8. Providing Services to Frail Older Adults in Rural Areas Acute Care; Long-Term Care; End-of-Life Care; Conclusion; Useful Websites; References; Part IV-Competent Practice in Rural Areas; 9. Interdisciplinary Teams Caring for Rural Older Adults; Models of Teamwork; Health Literacy; Recruitment and Training of Professionals in Rural Areas; Conclusion; Useful Websites; Note; References; 10. Role of the Health Care Professional; Health Care Practice With Rural Older Adults; Professional Competency; Conclusion; Useful Websites; References; 11. Role of the Human Service Professional Social Work Practice with Rural Older Adults Professional Competency; Competency and Evidence-Based Practice for Geriatric Social Work in Small Towns and Rural Areas; Conclusion; Useful Websites; References; Part V-Conclusions and Future Directions; 12. Policies Impacting Rural Aging; Older Americans Act; Medicare: Health Care and Health Care Access; Long-Term Care; Mental Health; Caregiver Support; Transportation; Social Security Act; Americans with Disabilities Act; The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Food Subsidies; Competencies to Improve Policies; Conclusion; Useful Websites References

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#### Sommario/riassunto

Research documents that rural elders are poorer, live in less adequate housing, and have far fewer health and service options available to them than their urban counterparts, yet there is a critical lack of current and detailed information on the problems facing rural elders and on the professional practices that serve this population. This text fills this gap by introducing readers to rural areas and their residents and discussing the issues, programs, and policies designed to meet their needs. Through a multidisciplinary lens, it examines and defines specific competencies required for success

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