Rural hospitals are an important part of the US rural economy. Hospitals provide employment and stimulate economic growth. With an increasing elderly population in rural areas, higher rates of poverty, and lower rates of insured individuals, rural hospitals are fighting to stay open. Since rural hospitals are typically smaller than urban hospitals, they tend to offer fewer services and have lower admissions rates. In the 1980s and early 1990s rural hospitals in the US were closing at rapid rates. In an effort to reduce hospital closures and improve hospital finances, the Critical Access Hospital certification was created to provide Medicare cost-based reimbursement to these hospitals. While this program is helpful to rural hospitals, it doesn't necessarily prevent the hospital from closing. In many rural communities in Illinois, the hospital is one of the biggest employers. Hospital closure could damage the health of the community. Therefore, this paper aims to evaluate the economic impacts of the Critical Access Hospitals on rural communities.