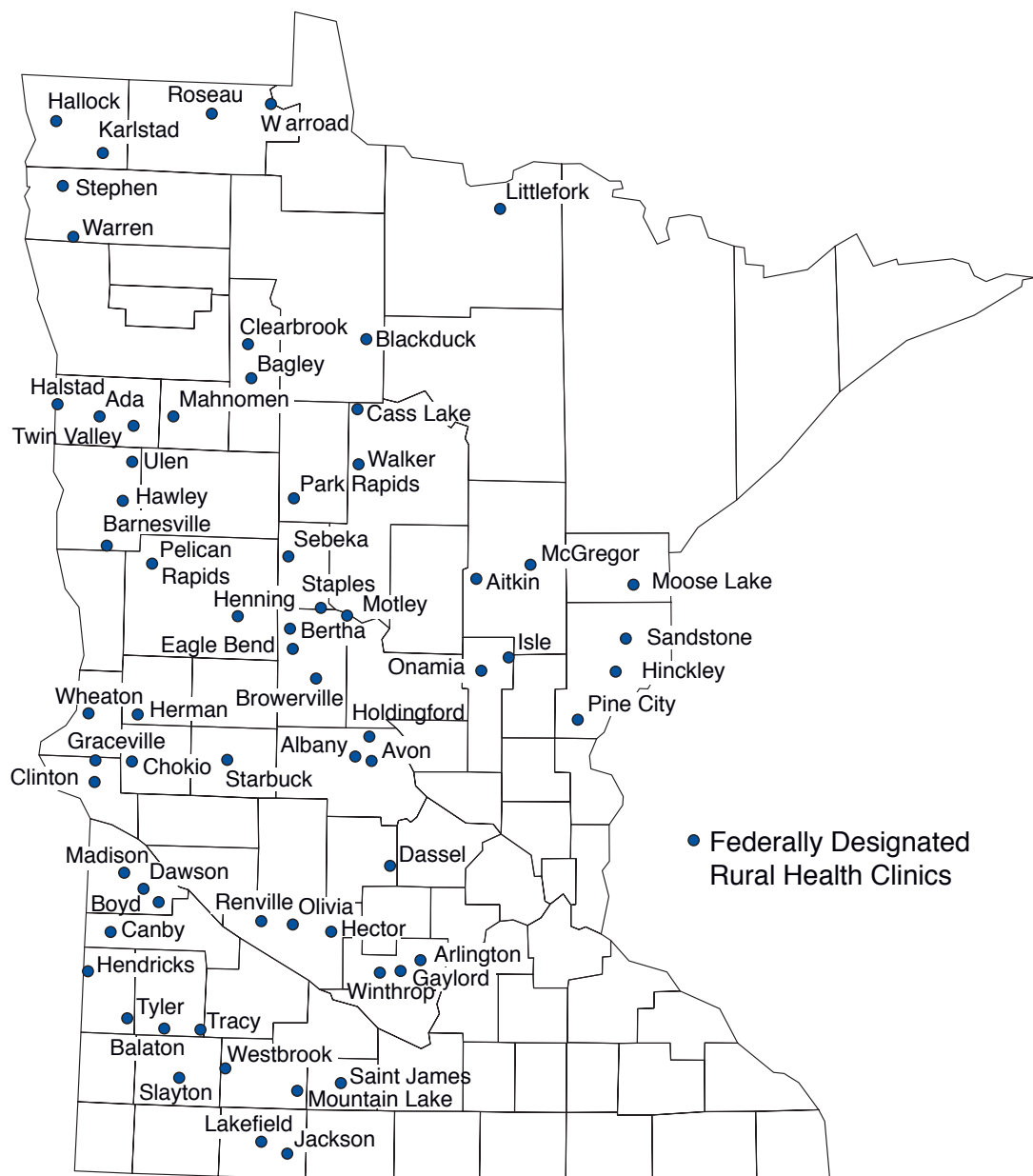


Federally Designated Rural Health Clinics, 2004

In rural areas, the shortage of health care providers is a serious issue. The federal government's rural health clinic designation is crucial to keeping clinics open in areas where the number of patients may be too low to make a regular clinic economically viable. Through more generous reimbursement rules, the federal government makes it financially possible to keep health care facilities open, serving area residents who would otherwise have to travel as much as 50 miles to another clinic. Access to such services is especially important to elderly and disabled residents, who may be limited in their mobility.



Data source: Minnesota Department of Health
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