



# Critical Access Hospital Profile

## Watford City, North Dakota

### McKenzie County Healthcare Systems

#### Quick Facts

**Administrator / CEO:**  
Peter Edis

**Chief of Medical Staff:**  
Dr. Gary Ramage

**Board Chair:** Gary Brown

**City Population:**  
6,207 (2020 Decennial Census)

**County Population:**  
14,704 (2020 Decennial Census)

**County Median Household Income:**  
75,238 (American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

**County Median Age:**  
30.3 (2020 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates)

**Service Area Population:**  
25,000

**Owned by:** Nonprofit

**Hospital Beds:** 24

**Skilled Nursing Facility Beds:** 39

**Trauma Level:** V

**Critical Access Hospital Designation:** 1999

**Economic Impact on the County<sup>2</sup>**

**Employment Impact:**  
Direct – 195  
Secondary – 62  
Total – 257

**Financial Impact:**  
Direct – \$17.5 million  
Secondary – \$3.57 million  
Total – \$21 million

#### Mission

Our commitment is to the patients and their families, whatever their needs may be. Our goal is to achieve the highest level of healthcare for these patients and their families. We are rural USA, therefore, we provide hometown values committed to quality services, continuity of care, assurance of qualified staff, and family involvement for individual patients and clients.

**County:** McKenzie

**Address:** 709 4th Ave NE, Watford City, ND 58854

**Phone:** 701.842.3000

**Fax:** 701.842.6248

**Web:** [www.mckenziehealth.com](http://www.mckenziehealth.com)

McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc. (MCHS), supported by the Christian churches in our community, is a 24-bed Medicare certified hospital, offering swing bed program services. Dedicated to a healing ministry, we are committed to excellence and service in a person-centered environment that respects the human life of all, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, disability, pregnancy, sex, and/or marital status.

MCHS supports a team approach to effectively and efficiently meeting the needs of our patients and their families. Evidence-based nursing practice is an important element of quality care at MCHS. The nursing staff incorporates evidence-based decision making to optimize outcomes for patients, improve clinical practice, achieve cost-effective nursing care, and ensure accountability in decision making.

#### Services

McKenzie County Healthcare Systems provides the following services directly:

- Assisted living
- Cardiac rehab
- Echocardiography
- Emergency services
- General surgery
- Hospitalist services
- Inpatient pharmacy
- Laboratory services
- Nursing
- Nursing home
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Orthopedic surgery
- Pain management
- Pediatrics
- Physical therapy
- Pulmonary rehab
- Radiology (MRI, CT, X-Ray, US, Dexa)
- Respiratory therapy
- Respite care
- Rural Health Clinic
- Specialty clinics: orthopedics, general surgery, urology, sports medicine
- Surgery department
- Swing bed program
- Urology
- Wellness center

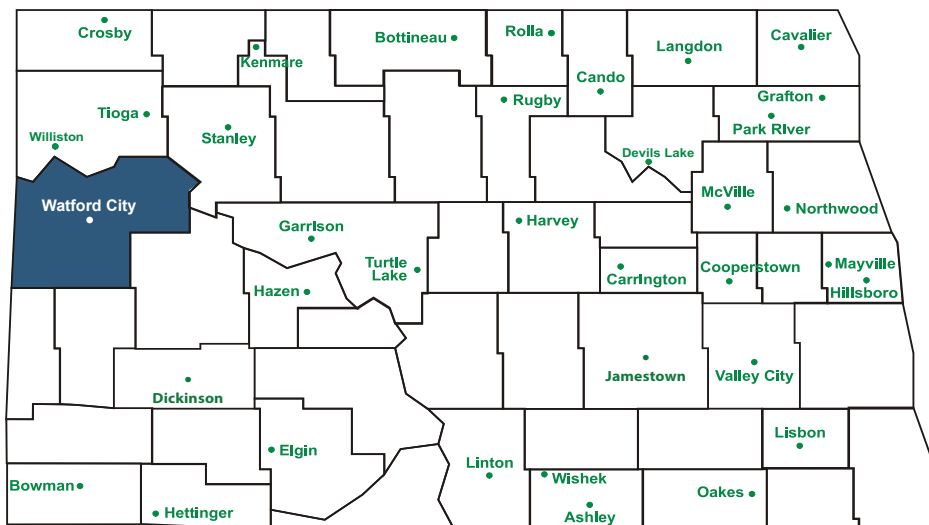
McKenzie County Healthcare Systems provides the following services through contract or agreement:

- Speech therapy

## Staffing

Physicians:	24
PAs:	0
DNP:	1
Nurse Practitioners:	6
RNs:	44
LPNs:	15
Total Employees:	226

## North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals



## Sources

- <sup>1</sup> -US Census Bureau; American Factfinder, Community Facts
- <sup>2</sup> -Economic Impact 2020 Center for Rural Health Oklahoma State University and Center for Rural Health University of North Dakota

## History

McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc., was born on July 1, 2004, with the merger of the Good Shepherd Home Corporation and the McKenzie County Memorial Hospital Corporation. This resulted in the consolidation of all healthcare services in McKenzie County. McKenzie County Healthcare Systems (MCHS) consists of a 24-bed CAH, emergency department, Rural Health Clinic, specialty clinics, urgent care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, Connie Wold Wellness Center, Good Shepherd Home Nursing Home, and Horizon Assisted Living.

McKenzie County Memorial Hospital officially opened its doors on March 10, 1952. Dr. A.H. Lamal was the first physician with Mrs. Royce Gravert, R.N. as the Administrator. New building additions were added in 1963 and 1977. In 1986, the McKenzie County Clinic opened across the street from the hospital, under the experienced eye of Dr. G.D. Ebel. The Healthy Hearts Wellness Center was opened in 1992 to provide the community with a workout center.

The Good Shepherd Home was opened on January 8, 1964. The Lutheran Churches of McKenzie County, in conjunction with the Arnegard Old Folks Home, had a vision of providing Christian care to the aging residents of their community. The first board of directors included Lee Stenehjem, Murphy Ecklund, Ivan Omlid, Sidney Swenson, and Paul Berge. In 1994, the Basic Care Addition was added. In 1986, the Heritage Senior Apartments were added, and in 2002 the Horizon Assisted Living Facility opened their doors. In late 2017 the nursing home moved, and in July 2018 MCHS moved into their newly constructed building.

## Recreation

Watford City is in west central North Dakota, just 40 miles from the Montana border. The economic base of the area relies primarily on farming, ranching, and oil and gas related industries. Two elementary schools and a high school provide educational services to the community. Within 50 to 125 miles of the city, post-secondary opportunities are available from four state-affiliated universities. The city park system includes several parks, a swimming pool, hockey rink, tennis courts and softball complex. An 18-hole golf course is only two miles east of town. Lake Sakakawea, the world's largest man-made lake, is 25 miles north, with outstanding opportunities for fishing, sailing and other water sports. The North Dakota Badlands and Theodore Roosevelt National Park's North Unit are 15 miles south, offering spectacular scenery, hiking, camping, and canoeing on the Little Missouri River.



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[ruralhealth.und.edu](http://ruralhealth.und.edu)