Modernizing California's Hospital Disaster Preparedness Standards — The Future of Care Delivery in Northern California Hangs in the Balance

As Northern California hospitals recover from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, they face a looming building standards mandate that will divert billions of dollars from patient and community investments. After decades of work and billions already spent to make California hospitals the gold standard for structural safety, hospitals are well-prepared to respond to earthquakes or other disasters. Now, it is time for lawmakers to focus on the future of care delivery by prioritizing policies that ensure ongoing emergency services and provide hospitals time to recover from the pandemic.



Every year, at hospitals in Northern California:

311.339 Inpatient stays ED visits

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Births

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Medi-Cal enrollees as a % of total

population

Directly employed and 'ripple effect' jobs



Total economic output



California hospitals are struggling

of hospitals operate in the red

More than \$10 billion in losses, even after federal CARES Act funding (2020-21)



Del Norte Glenn Humboldt Lake Lassen

Mendocino Modoc

Siskiyou Tehama Trinity

Shasta



- Expansion of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) programs that address preventive child behavioral health needs
- Workforce training and retention programs for nurses and allied health professionals
- Expansion of outpatient and ambulatory care services
- Expansion of programs that provide homeless individuals with housing & support services, while also ensuring appropriate care
- Expansion of job creation programs for local residents interested in health care careers

To be better prepared for future disasters, hospitals say Northern California needs:

- Wildfire hazard mitigation through expanded land clearing and other preventive initiatives near patient care facilities
- Equipment and materials necessary to rapidly construct negative pressure rooms
- Improved patient transportation and evacuation capabilities



