

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

As San Diego area 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 the San Diego region:



279,110
Inpatient stays



1 million
ED visits



30%
Medi-Cal enrollees as a % of total population



125,293
Directly employed and 'ripple effect' jobs



37,943
Births



\$22.3 billion
Total economic output



California hospitals are struggling

39% of hospitals operate in the red

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

Counties of the San Diego region

Imperial
San Diego



Community priorities hospitals in the San Diego region would like to invest in:

- Expansion of outpatient and ambulatory care services
- Behavioral health crisis services
- Digital infrastructure to support telehealth and other remote care capabilities



To be better prepared for future disasters, hospitals say the San Diego region needs:

- Advanced detection and care for infectious diseases
- State-of-the-art isolation and treatment capabilities to better care for patients
- Improved back-up power systems

