

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

As Southern 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 Southern California:



1.5 million
Inpatient stays



5.6 million
ED visits



38%
Medi-Cal enrollees as a % of total population



634,014
Directly employed and 'ripple effect' jobs



195,904
Births



\$116.6 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)



Community priorities hospitals in Southern California would like to invest in:

- Expansion of outpatient and ambulatory care services
- Collaborative initiatives to reduce health disparities among diverse populations
- Neighborhood-based chronic disease management programs
- Expansion of medical respite beds for patients experiencing homelessness
- Workforce training and retention programs for nurses and allied health professionals
- Expansion of behavioral health prevention programs
- Partnerships to address homelessness and housing insecurity
- Reduction of carbon footprint through energy retrofits



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

- Equipment and materials necessary to rapidly construct negative pressure rooms
- Advanced detection and care for infectious diseases
- Improved patient transportation services and evacuation capabilities
- Enhanced emergency communications capabilities
- Expanded EMS resources

Counties of Southern California

Inyo
Los Angeles
Mono
Orange
Riverside
San Bernardino
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Ventura

