

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

As California's 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, hospitals in California support:



3.1 million
Inpatient stays



11.9 million
ED visits



35%
Medi-Cal enrollees as a % of total population



1.4 million
Directly employed and 'ripple effect' jobs



412 thousand
Births



\$310.4 billion
Total economic output



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 California would like to invest in:

- Workforce training and retention programs for nurses and allied health professionals
- Expansion of behavioral health prevention and treatment programs
- Digital infrastructure to support telehealth and other remote care capabilities
- Expansion of outpatient and ambulatory care services
- Collaborative initiatives to reduce health disparities among diverse populations



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

- Advanced detection and care for infectious diseases
- Improved patient transportation services and evacuation capabilities
- Improved back-up power systems
- Enhanced regional emergency communications capabilities
- Expanded EMS resources