

For Rural California, Health Care Deserts Could Become the New Normal

Millions of Californians are at risk of losing access to critical health care services as rural hospitals struggle.



40% → 56%

The increase in the percentage of rural hospitals that lose money every day caring for patients since 2019.

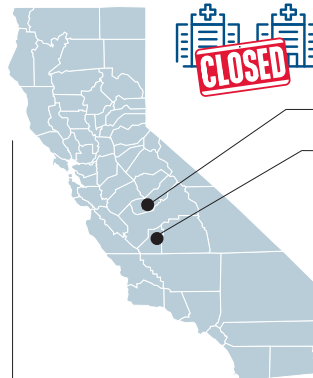
When a rural hospital closes, Californians living in these communities, mainly seniors and those below the poverty line, must travel farther for care:

20 miles

The median increase in distance to access inpatient services

40 miles

The median increase in distance to access specialized services, like treatment for substance use disorders



Two rural hospitals have shuttered. Dozens more at risk.

Madera Community Hospital

Corcoran District Hospital

20%

of CA's rural hospitals stopped offering OB services

40%

of CA's rural hospitals stopped offering chemotherapy

WHAT'S NEEDED

Rural hospitals need a new financial model that preserves care. A new financing system that will cover the costs of providing care at rural and critical access hospitals will help ensure all Californians have access to the care they need and deserve.