Promoting the health of East Bay communities

California’s hospitals lead the nation in providing vital health care services to vulnerable populations in the communities they serve. Here in the East Bay, hospitals are also integral to the local economy by creating jobs, advancing medical technologies, and investing in education.

**Economic Benefits**
- 14,973 total employees
- $1.62 billion average salaries & benefits

**Community Contributions**
- $24 million professional education & research
- $248 million uncompensated care
- $360 million Medi-Cal shortfall

**Hospital Services**
- 749,014 hospital visits
- 469,014 emergency dept. visits
- 17,509 births

**East Bay hospitals have shared health priorities**

In 2016, the Hospital Council gathered community health needs assessments from the 17 hospitals in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, revealing the following three shared health priorities:

- Improve healthcare access and delivery, including primary and specialty care
- Address obesity, diabetes, and HEAL (Healthy Eating/Active Living)
- Expand access to mental, behavioral, and substance abuse services

**Hospitals in your county fund vital programs and services**

*Expand access to primary care and health screenings*

- **Sutter Health** ensures that uninsured and underinsured patients receive the right primary care at the right place and time by providing care transition services between emergency departments and local health centers.
- **Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare** provides underserved youth and families with health screenings and school-linked health and wellness services through the Tri-Valley Health Initiative, which links child health to educational success and long-term health outcomes.

*Prevent and control chronic disease*

- **Kaiser Permanente** funds Fresh Approach, which includes the VeggieRx nutrition education program that offers nutrition and food preparation classes for community clinic patients with diet-related chronic diseases.
- **Washington Hospital Healthcare System** offers outpatient diabetes services including free blood sugar screenings to uninsured and underserved residents at the Washington on Wheels Mobile Health Clinic and expanded access to diabetes education programs.

*Improve access to mental health services*

- **UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland** funds three school-based health centers providing psychosocial support and mental health services for adolescents. All three clinic sites also partner with group homes in the area.
- **St. Rose Hospital** offers direct mental health services to at-risk high school students through the FACES for the Future program. FACES also partners with La Familia Counseling Services to provide psychosocial support for students’ families.
How do hospitals define community benefit?

In 1994, the California Hospital Community Benefit Law (Senate Bill 697) was enacted to affirm the mission of the state’s hospitals to provide programs that meet community health needs. Each year, California’s not-for-profit hospitals invest approximately $5 billion back into the communities they serve. Examples of community benefit include charity care, covering the unpaid cost of providing health care services to Medi-Cal recipients, investments in life-saving emergency and trauma centers, and partnerships with local organizations to provide care for the homeless and other underserved populations. Hospitals also invest in education and training, wellness and prevention programs, and other efforts that promote the total health of their communities.

The community health needs assessment process

Every three years, hospitals prepare an assessment to determine how best to improve the health of the people who depend on them for care. This rigorous process involves the review of local data and input from community and government stakeholders. As a result, hospital community benefit programs are designed to meet identified, prioritized health needs that reflect the diversity of their local community.

Take advantage of these resources to learn more

This report provides a general overview of health needs in the East Bay and in Alameda County. The latest community benefit reports are available at each hospital’s website or through the Hospital Council at the following link: http://www.hospitalcouncil.org/community-benefit

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