California’s Healthcare Districts: 
A Local Choice for California’s Health

California Healthcare Districts respond to the specialized health needs of California communities. Voters created 79 Healthcare Districts to fill distinct gaps in local health care services – from wellness and prevention to emergency rooms and long-term care. 54 of these Districts serve the state’s rural areas. Healthcare Districts provide access to essential health services and are directly accountable at the community level. As a result, tens of millions of Californians are able to access care that would otherwise be out of reach.

“Healthcare Districts are meeting community needs by saving lives, keeping families healthy, and improving the quality of life of Californians.”

HEALTHCARE DISTRICTS
Created by Residents to Address Communities’ Health Care Needs

No one knows the needs of a community more than the people who live there. By creating tailored Healthcare Districts to meet local needs for health services, community members are working together to effectively address a shared concern. Healthcare Districts are meeting community needs by saving lives, keeping families healthy, and improving the quality of life of Californians.

Healthcare Districts play a vital role in communities with severe provider shortages and are an integral part of California’s health care safety net.

Although each Healthcare District is unique, focusing on the specific needs of each community, the core mission of Healthcare Districts remains the same: to provide critical health care services to the communities that created them.
Services Tailored To Meet Local Needs

Healthcare Districts are tailored to meet the needs of each community, including services such as:

- Nutrition and fitness education
- Rural health clinics
- School-based health services
- Partnering with local governments to create opportunities for healthy lifestyles
- Laboratory and radiology services
- Maternal and childhood services
- Mental health and substance abuse services
- Physician training
- Hospital care
- Ambulance services
- Outpatient surgery
- Medical transportation
- Adult day care and senior services
- Hospice care
- Skilled nursing facilities

Close Community Connections

With their close connection to local needs, Healthcare Districts are crucial to making the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medi-Cal expansion a success in California. Healthcare Districts have succeeded in expanding access to care by enrolling uninsured Californians in coverage through the ACA.

From specialized services for rural communities, to services tailored to the unique needs of diverse populations, to partnering with schools to keep children healthy, Healthcare Districts are innovating to deliver improved health care value for the local communities they serve.

Healthcare Districts: A Crucial Part of California’s Health Care System

Every year, California’s Healthcare Districts provide:

- 1 million emergency room visits
- 4 million in-patient hospital visits

Healthcare Districts meet the needs of:

- Communities with severe health care provider shortages
- Uninsured Californians
- Low-income seniors, adults, and children through Medi-Cal
- Underserved populations

Strong Oversight and Transparency

Healthcare Districts are the most local form of government, directly accountable to the communities they serve. This close connection to voters ensures openness and transparency. Residents not only vote to create Healthcare Districts, they also elect the public boards that oversee the spending of their local tax dollars in pursuit of improved community health. Healthcare Districts must submit annual financial reports to the California State Controller and obey all state laws governing public records, record keeping, elections, and public access to documents.

The Most Responsive Form of Local Government

Created by residents for residents, Healthcare Districts throughout California provide vital services for the community members who create and oversee them. As the most responsive form of local government, Healthcare Districts are established, operated, and controlled by local voters who understand each community’s concerns and ensure that each District is effectively meeting their local health care needs.

About ACHD

The Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) represents Healthcare Districts throughout the state. The Association serves the diverse needs of California’s Healthcare Districts by enhancing public awareness, training and educating its members and advocating for legislation and regulatory policies that allow Healthcare Districts to deliver the best possible health services to Californians. Learn more at www.achd.org.

1215 K Street Suite 2005 • 916.266.5200 • info@achd.org

@ACHDnews