

Mendocino Coast Health Care District Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Mendocino Coast Health Care District?

Mendocino Coast Health Care District (MCHCD) was formed in 1967 and spans the Coast from Rockport to Elk. The primary mission of MCHCD is to ensure the continuity of essential hospital health care on the Mendocino Coast for all our residents and communities.

Who is Adventist Health?

Adventist Health (AH) is a large health care network with stable financial and professional resources that has partnered with MCHCD to provide medical services in our local hospital facilities.

Adventist Health Mendocino Coast provides emergency services, in-patient, and outpatient services as well as health care education to prevent, manage and treat chronic and acute medical conditions. Adventist Health Mendocino Coast is a major employer in the region and provides a broader range of services than many other Critical Access Hospitals in rural communities.

What is the relationship between Adventist Health Mendocino Coast and MCHCD?

MCHCD owns and oversees the property and buildings of the current hospital and North Coast Family Health Center. Adventist Health Mendocino Coast hires, manages and oversees all of the doctors, nurses and staff working in the hospital and the North Coast Family Health Center.

What are the current challenges of MCHCD?

The hospital facilities are 52 years old and in need of major repairs and upgrades to continue delivering health care to our community. In addition to several critical maintenance projects and needed capital improvements, the State of California has mandated that all hospitals must be updated to current seismic standards by 2030 or they will be forced to close.

What will happen if the hospital facilities are not updated?

Failure to upgrade our hospital buildings could result in the closure of the hospital and North Coast Family Health Center as well as the elimination of our local ambulance service. The closure of the hospital would be a severe detriment to the health of our local communities. The other nearest hospitals are in Willits (45+ minutes away) and Ukiah (over an hour away).

Is there a plan to update the hospital facilities?

MCHCD is exploring the options of major repairs and upgrades to the current facilities as well as a variety of modernization projects to provide expanded services to our community. These repairs and upgrades are the responsibility of MCHCD and are beyond the scope of MCHCD's current maintenance budget. One option is a potential bond measure to provide dedicated local funding for repairs and upgrades to our hospital facilities and make sure our local hospital remains open and compliant with the law.

How would a potential bond measure benefit our community?

A local bond measure would provide the needed funds for key projects, including:

- Provide seismic retrofitting to all hospital facilities so they meet current safety standards
- Repair or replace leaky roofs, and deteriorating electrical and plumbing systems in the hospital and other hospital facilities
- Maintain local emergency room services
- Update and improve local surgical services
- Continue essential health care at our local hospital and clinic

How can I be sure funds from a potential bond measure would be spent as promised?

A potential measure would include strict fiscal accountability provisions, including:

- A detailed project list would be required to identify the projects to be funded by the potential measure
- All funds would be locally controlled and could not be taken by the State or used for other purposes
- Annual audits and public financial disclosures would ensure proper use of funds
- Require an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure funds are spent as promised

Who could vote on a potential bond measure?

All registered voters who live in the Mendocino Coast Health Care District would be eligible to vote on a potential measure. The District spans the Coast from Rockport to Elk.

How can I learn more?

As the MCHCD Board of Directors continues to evaluate options for repairing and updating our hospital facilities, we want to hear from you. To learn more, please visit

www.mchcd.org/facilities.