

AHCD FAQ

What is the City of Alameda Healthcare District?

The City of Alameda Healthcare District (CAHCD) is a public entity responsible for overseeing healthcare services in the Alameda community. In addition to managing the main Alameda Hospital campus, the District also operates several other facilities, including skilled nursing and rehabilitation units, as well as outpatient services, all located within Alameda. These facilities provide a range of health services to meet the diverse needs of the community, ensuring comprehensive care beyond the hospital itself.

The District also owns the property or leaseholds on which 171 skilled nursing facility beds are operated in three locations. Included in these are 35 subacute beds serving chronically impaired residents, many of whom are ventilator-dependent. The District also has a leasehold for the Creedon Wound Care Center in Alameda which includes multidisciplinary care for wound patients and hyperbaric oxygen chambers.

What is the relationship between the City of Alameda Healthcare District (AHCD) and the Alameda Health System (AHS)?

The City of Alameda Healthcare District (AHCD) and Alameda Health System (AHS) have a joint relationship established through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Under this agreement, AHS operates Alameda Hospital, which is owned by AHCD. AHS manages the hospital's operations, including licensure, governance, and financial oversight, while AHCD provides support and input. Both parties aim to maintain Alameda Hospital as a vital healthcare resource for Alameda County residents, ensuring quality medical care and services are delivered within budgetary constraints.

What is the Alameda Healthcare District responsible for?

The City of Alameda Healthcare District (AHCD) owns the buildings of Alameda Hospital and is responsible for their maintenance, structural integrity, and compliance with seismic safety standards. The District ensures that Alameda

Hospital continues to serve the community by maintaining the necessary infrastructure and meeting state regulations.

Why does Alameda Hospital need seismic upgrades?

Following the Northridge earthquake in 1994, California lawmakers passed a law requiring hospitals to either seismically upgrade their buildings, or replace them to meet safety standards, by 2030. This law ensures that hospitals remain operational during and after earthquakes to continue providing critical care. Alameda Hospital must meet these standards to continue operating and serving the Alameda community.

What will the seismic upgrade project involve?

The seismic upgrade involves two main components:

Seismic Retrofits: The District will retrofit all buildings to meet the 2030 seismic standards, ensuring they remain safe and operational during earthquakes. This is estimated to cost \$28.9 million.

Operational Upgrades: An area in the South Wing will be upgraded to create an 18-bed, high-intensity skilled nursing facility unit. This unit will provide specialized care for patients who are too ill and need community-skilled nursing facilities. The operational upgrades are estimated to cost \$25.1 million.

How is the seismic upgrade being funded?

The City of Alameda Healthcare District is financing the \$54 million seismic and operational upgrade project by issuing Certificates of Participation (COPs), similar to tax-exempt bonds. The COPs will be issued in two phases: \$13.5 million in August 2024 and \$41.5 million in December 2025.

Will the emergency department or other critical services at Alameda Hospital be affected during the upgrades?

The emergency department and other critical services at Alameda Hospital will remain open and fully operational throughout the seismic upgrade project. The goal of the project is to ensure that these essential services continue to be available to the community, especially in times of disaster.

When will the seismic upgrades be completed?

The seismic upgrades and operational enhancements are scheduled to be completed by 2028. This timeline ensures that Alameda Hospital will meet the 2030 state-mandated seismic standards while continuing to provide uninterrupted service to the community.

Why is the Alameda Healthcare District committed to these upgrades?

The seismic upgrades are a state mandate that also presents an opportunity for the District to secure the hospital for the future. The Alameda Healthcare District is committed to ensuring that Alameda Hospital remains a safe and reliable facility for all residents. By meeting seismic safety standards and upgrading hospital facilities, the District is investing in the long-term health and safety of the Alameda community. These upgrades will ensure that Alameda Hospital can continue to serve as a vital healthcare resource in both everyday and emergency situations.

How can the community stay informed about the progress of the seismic upgrades?

The Alameda Healthcare District will provide regular updates on the progress of the seismic upgrades through its website ([link here](#)) and community newsletters. Residents are encouraged to visit the District's website frequently for the latest news and information about the project.

Will emergency surgeries continue to be performed at Alameda Hospital?

Yes, unscheduled or emergent surgeries will continue to be performed at Alameda Hospital. AHS is working to ensure the highest quality and safety for all surgical care.

Do any other AHS hospitals need to be seismically upgraded?

Yes, seismic upgrades are also underway at San Leandro Hospital and the Wilma Chan Highland Hospital Campus to meet 2030 standards.