

# SOUTH CAROLINA

## Community Benefit Requirement

South Carolina requires hospitals to provide indigent care as a condition of receiving a certificate of need (CON), which is required before establishing a health care facility or expanding a health care facility's medical services. [S.C. Code Regs. 61-15 §202C\(1\); 102\(1\)](#).

## Minimum Community Benefit Requirement

South Carolina law does not expressly require nonprofit hospitals to provide community benefits.

## Community Benefit Reporting Requirement

South Carolina requires hospitals to report community benefits in connection with an application for a CON.

To support a CON application, a hospital must provide an Indigent Care Plan that includes, among other things, a report of the amount of indigent care the hospital provided during the previous three years. [S.C. Code Regs. 61-15 § 202C\(1\)\(c\)](#).

## Community Health Needs Assessment

South Carolina does not require nonprofit hospitals to conduct community health needs assessments.

## Community Benefit Plan/Implementation Strategy

South Carolina does not require nonprofit hospitals to develop community benefit plans or implementation strategies.

## Financial Assistance Policy

South Carolina does not require nonprofit hospitals to adopt or implement financial assistance policies.

However, South Carolina requires hospitals to inform patients of the existence of the county-based Medically Indigent Assistance Program that pays for inpatient hospital services on behalf of needy individuals who meet specified eligibility criteria. Hospitals must refer patients for an application if they cannot pay for hospital services. [S. C. Code Regs. 126-505C](#).



In addition, the Indigent Care Plan required in connection with a CON application must address existing and proposed admission and treatment policies with respect to care of indigent patients. [S.C. Code Regs. 61-15-202C\(1\)](#).

## Financial Assistance Policy Dissemination

South Carolina does not require nonprofit hospitals to adopt, implement, or disseminate financial assistance policies.

## Limitations on Charges, Billing, and Collections

South Carolina does not limit nonprofit hospital charges, billing, or collection practices.

## Income Tax Exemption

South Carolina law exempts federally tax-exempt organizations from state income tax.

Income that is exempt from federal income tax pursuant to Internal Revenue Code §501 is exempt from state income tax [S. C. Code §12-6-540](#) (limiting application of state income tax of federally tax-exempt organization to its unrelated business income). [South Carolina Non-Profit Corporations](#).

## Property Tax Exemption

South Carolina law exempts nonprofit hospitals from state property tax.

The property of charitable institutions “in the nature of hospitals and institutions caring for the infirmed, the handicapped, the aged, children and indigent persons ...” is exempt from state property tax unless the institution’s profits are applied to private use. [S.C. Const. art. X, §3\(b\)](#); [S. C. Code §12-37-220\(A\)\(2\)](#).

## Sales Tax Exemption

South Carolina law exempts some nonprofit hospitals from sales tax.

A South Carolina sales tax exemption applies to the sales of tangible personal property to charitable hospitals “predominantly serving children ... without charge to the patient.” [S.C. Code §12-36-2120\(47\)](#).