

WE ARE PUBLIC HEALTH

BY CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

#CACANTWAIT THANKS GOVERNOR FOR \$300M PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET PROPOSAL

On January 10th, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled his \$286 billion proposed budget outlining his key priorities for investment in California for the 2022-23 fiscal year. CHEAC was thrilled that the Governor's proposal kept the promise he and the Legislature made last year to invest \$300 million annually to rebuild California's public health infrastructure, with \$200 million dedicated to local public health departments. The strong advocacy of our #CACantWait coalition was critical in securing this commitment last year and ensuring this life-saving promise was kept in the Governor's budget proposal. Read our [#CACantWait coalition statement](#) for reactions to the Governor's proposal.

While the details of how the funding can be spent still needs to be negotiated between the Governor and the Legislature in the coming months, the current proposal envisions funding being directed to support these broad categories:

- Strengthen local health department staffing and strengthen priority areas identified during the pandemic.
- Standardize the collection and integration of data to develop actionable information to guide local decision-making.
- Expand local partnerships with health care delivery systems and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, to drive system change.

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Additionally, each local health jurisdiction is proposed to receive a base allocation of \$350,000 and the remaining funds would be distributed according to a formula that takes into account the following factors:

- 50 percent – Local Health Jurisdiction population
- 25 percent – Race and ethnicity
- 25 percent – Poverty

We thank our #CACantWait coalition partners SEIU California, Health Officers Association of California, California State Association of Counties, Urban Counties of California, Rural County Representatives of California, and Public Health Advocates for their commitment to rebuilding our long underfunded public health resources. Our coalition's advocacy will be critical to ensuring the state's commitment to reinvest in public health is upheld and in securing the resources necessary to prepare California from ongoing public health threats.



GOVERNOR ISSUES \$2.7B COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUEST

Prior to his budget announcement, Governor Newsom unveiled a [\\$2.7 billion COVID-19 Emergency Response Package](#) to support testing, vaccination, and frontline workers. The package includes a \$1.4 billion in immediate emergency appropriations request to address the latest COVID-19 surge. The total proposed investment includes:

- \$1.2 Billion to Bolster Testing
- \$583 Million to Promote Vaccines and Combat Misinformation
- \$614 Million to Support Frontline Workers
- \$200 Million to Support State Operations
- \$110 Million to Support Contact Tracing

CHEAC [applauded](#) the Governor's proposed investment which comes at a pivotal time in our ongoing fight against COVID-19 and its more virulent variants. The Governor has asked the Legislature to prioritize these investments for action in early 2022.

CHEAC URGES SUPPORT FOR #CACANTWAIT AND NEW INITIATIVES

Now that the Governor has announced his ongoing commitment to dedicate \$300M annually to rebuild our decimated public health workforce and infrastructure, the next phase of our campaign to develop the future workforce pipeline is quickly taking shape.

#CACantWait coalition leaders will soon unveil the [Public Health Equity and Readiness Opportunity \(HERO\) Initiative](#) - a set of budget investments needed to help build a public health system that is not just adequate but second to none. The Public HERO initiative urges investments into the following categories:

- Expand local health department staffing (\$300M outlined above w/ \$200M for local public health)
- Recruit and retain public health staff
- Build a pipeline of public health professionals

The Public HERO initiative has broad stakeholder support through #CACantWait coalition leaders, including SEIU, HOAC, CSAC, RCRC, UCC, and PHA, who are deeply engaged in our work and dedicated to ensuring local public health departments have the resources they need to respond to myriad public health threats.

Together, we can develop the diverse public health workforce needed to continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, counter infectious disease, prevent chronic illness, address growing public health threats like diabetes, STDs, tuberculosis, and syphilis, and deliver health equity. But we need your help! To advance these crucial #CACantWait investments, we urge you to [join the coalition](#) as a supporter.

CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION POLL FINDS STRONG SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

The California Health Care Foundation recently released their [2022 California Health Policy Survey](#). This year's survey provides an in-depth look at Californians' views on health care policy, COVID-19 and the health care system more broadly, and included key findings on support for public health.

When it comes to Californians' views on funding public health, the CHCF survey found that 85% of respondents say it's "extremely" or "very" important that "making sure state and county health departments have the resources they need to respond to emergencies and crises such as pandemics, earthquakes, and fires tops the list of health care priorities." While support varies across political parties, all respondents overwhelmingly support funding state and county health departments with 92% of democrats, 83% of independents, and 73% of republicans saying it's "extremely" or "very" important for Governor Newsom and the Legislature to take action in 2022.

