

BUDGET BILL JR – AB 178

Please note, the below summary only highlights items anticipated to be of interest to local health departments.

Public HERO Initiative – CHEAC and California Can't Wait Coalition Budget Requests

Please note, CHEAC, as part of the California Can't Wait Coalition, advocated for these funds as part of the Public Health Equity and Readiness Opportunity (HERO) Initiative.

\$200.4 million for Local Health Departments

- Provides annual funding to local health departments beginning in FY 2022-23.
- Please see description in the [Health Trailer Bill Summary](#).

Public Health Pathways Training Corps

- Provides \$8 million General Fund, available until June 30, 2025, to provide fellowships for early-career public health professionals and internships for students from diverse backgrounds and disproportionately affected communities to conduct communicable disease prevention and control, community engagement, emergency response, and other public health activities at local health department host sites.
- Requires CDPH to annually accept applications for the programs and strive to maximize participation.
- Requires CDPH to place programs in diverse local health departments throughout the state, including rural and Central Valley jurisdictions.
- Requires CDPH to provide a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2026, that includes the following:
 - The number of applicants.
 - The number of individuals accepted into the program each year.
 - Job attainment results following participation in the program, including, but not limited to the percentage of individuals employed in governmental public health, the percentage employed in the private sector, the percentage employed by hospitals, and the percentage employed in other fields.
 - Demographics of applicants and program participants.
- The final budget agreement provides \$8 million per year for three years.

Public Health Microbiologist Training

- Provides \$3.2 million General Fund available until June 30, 2025, to increase the number of public health microbiologist trainees in California.
- The final budget agreement provides \$3.2 million per year for three years.

Lab Aspire

- Provides \$3.2 million General Fund available until June 30, 2025, to increase funding to the Lab Aspire Program, which trains and prepares qualified professionals to direct California Public Health Laboratories.
- The final budget agreement provides \$3.2 million per year for three years.

California Epidemiologic Investigation Service Training Program

- Provides \$3.2 million General Fund available until June 30, 2025, to increase the number of fellows in the California Epidemiologic Investigation Service Training Program, which prepares epidemiologists for public health leadership positions throughout California.
- The final budget agreement provides \$3.2 million per year for three years.

Public Health Nurse Certification Fees

- Provides \$3.33 million to the department of Health Care Access and Information to support a program, in collaboration with the Board of Registered Nursing, to waive certification and recertification fees for public health nurses.
- Funds allocated in FY 2022-23 are available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025.
- The final budget agreement provides \$3.33 million per year for three years.

Other Items of Interest

Climate and Health Surveillance

- Provides \$10 million General Fund to CDPH to support the Climate Health and Surveillance Program.

California Home Visiting and Black Infant Health

- Provides General Fund to support the augmentation of the California Home Visiting and Black Infant Health Programs.
 - \$5 million for CDPH operations
 - \$45 million for local assistance

Alzheimer's Healthy Brain Initiative

- Provides one-time General Fund available until June 30, 2025, to support the Alzheimer's Healthy Brain Initiative.
 - \$1.5 million for CDPH operations
 - \$8.5 million for local assistance

WIC Books for Low-Income Children

- Provides one-time General Fund available until June 30, 2025, to provide books for low-income children.
 - \$500,000 for CDPH operations
 - \$9.5 million for local assistance

Public Health Regional Climate Planning

- Provides one-time General Fund available until June 30, 2025, to support Public Health Regional Climate Planning.
 - \$1.25 million for CDPH operations
 - \$23.75 million for local assistance

CDPH Funding for Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce

- Provides \$99.6 million to CDPH available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2024, and authority for 404 positions to establish a local public health workforce and public health infrastructure investment program.
- Requires CDPH to provide coordination, planning, and technical assistance to local health jurisdictions to support investments in public health infrastructure.

Information Technology, Data Science and Informatics Framework for a 21st Century Public Health System

- Provides \$20.1 million General Fund, available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2024, for the Information Technology, Data Science and Informatics Framework for a 21st Century Public Health System
- Provides authority to augment this amount by up to \$15.9 million for planning activities associated with other specified IT initiatives.

End the Epidemics

- Provides General Fund to support investments to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STDs
 - \$1.2 million for CDPH operations
 - \$11.8 million for local assistance
- Of the local assistance funding, \$2.7 million must be used to support the Syringe Exchange Supply Clearinghouse and \$9.1 million shall support interventions to prevent and control STDs.

STDs

- Provides General Fund, available until June 30, 2027, for a grant program for specified local health jurisdictions for STD prevention and control activities.
 - \$1 million for CDPH operations
 - Requires CDPH to monitor activities in funded local health jurisdictions to assess the effectiveness of STD prevention and control activities
 - Exempts contracts or grants awarded from the Public Contract Code and State Contracting Manual and is not subject to the Department of General Services approval.
 - \$9 million for CDPH to provide grants to local health jurisdictions
 - Funds must be allocated to the following jurisdictions: Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Joaquin
 - Funds shall be allocated 60 percent based on early syphilis and 40 percent based on congenital syphilis morbidity.
- Funds must be used to support innovative and impactful syphilis and congenital syphilis prevention and control activities with a focus on populations as determined by local or regional syphilis and congenital syphilis epidemiology.
- Funds must be used to supplement and not supplant existing financial and resource commitments.

Hepatitis B

- Provides General Fund, available until June 30, 2027, for CDPH to establish demonstration projects to allow for innovative, evidence-informed approaches to improve the health and well-being of the most vulnerable underserved Californians living with or at risk for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.
 - \$300,000 for CDPH operations
 - \$2.7 million for local assistance
- Demonstration projects must be informed, in part, by a landscape analysis conducted by CDPH on existing HBV outreach, screening, and linkages to and retention in care efforts statewide.
- The landscape analysis must include an assessment of current efforts and needs to serve the most vulnerable and underserved Californians living with or at risk for HBV infection.
- CDPH must establish a process to request applications and award funding on a competitive basis.
- Demonstration projects shall include an evaluation component and the department must develop a plan to share lessons learned.

California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative (CACHI)

- Provides \$15 million General Fund to support CACHI
- Allows CDPH to enter into agreements with HCAI, DHCS, and CHHS for purposes of implementing the program

- Requires the department to enter into contract with Community Partners Inc, to lead 14 established Accountable Communities for Health, designed to convene local organizations to identify and respond to local health issues.
- Community Partners Inc may use up to 5 percent of the funds for administration of the program and must:
 - Partner with the established 13 ACHs to continue their programs for 3 years
 - Implement a competitive grant process to award grants for the establishment of 25 more ACHs
 - Identify initiatives with CHHS Agency to partner with and consult with other state departments on local engagement efforts that improve community health.
- Funds are available until December 31, 2025.
- Allows funding to be transferred for local assistance purposes.
- Allows CDPH to use up to 5 percent for implementation.
- Exempts contracts or grants awarded from the Public Contract Code and State Contracting Manual and is not subject to the Department of General Services approval.

Reproductive Health Rights

- Provides General Fund until June 30, 2025, to promote awareness of reproductive health rights and services and research into disparities into reproductive health access.
 - \$3.7 million for CDPH operations
 - \$13.3 million to support grants to community-based organizations to provide comprehensive reproductive health and sex health education.

Youth Suicide Prevention Grants and Outreach Campaign

- Provides \$40 million, available or encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2025, to support the Children and Youth Suicide Prevention Grants and Outreach Campaign.
- CDPH must use the funds to implement a youth suicide prevention media campaign and community-based organization mini grant program to be executed beginning no later than December 1, 2022

Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program

- Provides \$50 million General Fund, available until June 30, 2025, to support the Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program
- Exempts contracts or grants awarded from the Public Contract Code and State Contracting Manual and is not subject to the Department of General Services approval.

Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKOs)

- Provides \$8 million the California Workforce Development Board to administer a microenterprise home kitchen operation grant program.
 - Provides \$5 million in competitive grants for non-profit organizations to perform outreach about MEHKO opportunities, education and training, marketing, and negotiating preferred rates for food, supplies, equipment, and services.
 - Funds can also be used to provide direct financial support for home cooks to reimburse activities related to permitting or food-safety certification.
- Provides \$3 million to local health departments and city code enforcement agencies to apply for reimbursements costs incurred from the development of application forms, permitting processes, and initial site inspections and city code enforcement activities.
- Allows up to 5 percent of the funds to be used for administrative costs.

Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications

- Provides \$230 million to the newly established Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Partnerships to conduct COVID-19 vaccine-related outreach and public awareness campaigns previously administered by CDPH. (See General Government TBL Summary for more details.)

Health IT Workforce Recruitment and Training in Underserved Communities

- Provides \$15 million to the Department of Health Care Access and Information to support programs that are targeted to partnerships between community health clinics and local public health agencies, and information technology training programs offered by health IT organizations that deliver health IT operational and support staff workforce recruitment, training, and workplace -based earn and learn programs in underserved communities.

Public Health Emergency/Long-Term Care Workgroup

- Provides \$450,000 General Fund to the California Department of Aging, available until June 30, 2024, to support a working group to develop recommendations regarding best policies and practices for long-term care facilities during public health emergencies, including visitation policies.
- The workgroup must include: the California Department of Aging, Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, CDPH, CDSS, and stakeholders representing public health officials, long-term care facility operators and residents, and consumer advocates.
- The California Department of Aging, must submit recommendations of the workgroup to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature no later than April 1, 2024.